# Hafa Adai! Salpan Iribune

www.saipantribune.com

**THURSDAY**, MAY 25, 2023

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Rota residents hunker down

mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSOCIATE EDITOR

ormer Saipan resident and now Rota businessman Juan Pan Guerrero and his family stayed calm as the outer bands of a slightly weaker-but-still powerful Typhoon Mawar brought heavy

rain and strong winds to the southernmost chain of the CNMI at past noon yesterday.

Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog said at around 7pm last night that her team is already pre-

See RESIDENTS on Page 4

### 'Swells flood Rota East Harbor'

>> DPL Secretary **Santos savs East Harbor cannot** be used as temporary port of entry

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The Rota East Harbor was flooded yesterday afternoon due to large swells brought by the outer bands of Typhoon Mawar that, although has weakened slightly from a Category 5 typhoon, is still powerful at 140 mph as it passed just a little north of nearby Guam.

This situation at the Rota East Harbor, which is also

**Days until** 'touchback rule'

takes effect on

Sept. 30, 2023:

See FLOOD on Page 4



Large swells brought by Typhoon Mawar cause flooding at the Rota East Harbor as seen in this screen grab from a video circulating on Facebook yesterday afternoon.

Although Guam bore the brunt of Typhoon Mawar and just gave a glancing

blow to Rota yesterday, the CNMI administration, CNMI Homeland Security Emergency Management, and federal partners took no See RECOVERY on Page 4

### 3-day arbitration hearing between IPI, CCC is expected be done today

DeLeon Guerrero

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

A three-day arbitration hearing in Honolulu, Hawaii regarding a legal dispute between Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and the Commonwealth Ca-See 3-DAY on Page 4



line to fall on Sailing Drive corner Dandan Road

**POWER RESTORATION** 

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. crew work to restore electric

power in the Dandan area yesterday afternoon after strong

winds brought by a distant Typhoon Mawar caused the power

### LIFE & STYLE

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

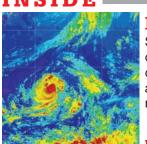
Bulgarian writer Georgi Gospodinov wins the International Booker Prize for "Time Shelter."

**PAGE 15** 



**SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED** ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

### INSIDE



### LOCAL

School and business closures, flight cancelations, weather advisories, online resources, etc..

PAGE 5



### WORLD

The European Union's foreign policy chief praises the U.S.' decision to train Ukrainian pilots.

PAGE 13



2 THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Local

### Mawar closes in on Guam as residents shelter, military sends away ships

By GRACE GARCES BORDALLO and JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Residents stockpiled supplies, battened down windows and abandoned wood and tin homes for emergency shelters as Guam was buffeted by rains and winds Wednesday from Typhoon Mawar, the strongest storm to approach the U.S. Pacific territory in decades.

The U.S. military sent away ships, President Joe Biden approved an emergency declaration and anyone not living in a concrete house was urged to seek safety elsewhere ahead of the typhoon, which was forecast to arrive as a Category 4 storm but could possibly strengthen to a Category 5. The last Category 5 to make a direct hit in Guam was Super Typhoon Karen in 1962.

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guer-

rero said on social media that the emergency declaration will support the mobilization of resources into Guam, which is "especially crucial given our distance from the continental U.S." Leon Guerrero ordered residents of coastal, low-lying and flood-prone areas of the territory of over 150,000 people to evacuate to higher elevations.

Federal assistance will be needed to save lives and property and "mitigate the effects of this imminent catastrophe," Leon Guerrero said in a letter to the president requesting a "prelandfall emergency" for Guam. Officials warned residents who aren't in fully concrete structures—some homes on the farflung island are made of wood and tin—to relocate.

Guam is a crucial hub for U.S. forces in the Pacific, and the Department of Defense controls about a third of the island. Rear Adm. Benjamin Nich-

olson, Joint Region Marianas commander, authorized the evacuation of defense personnel, dependents and employees in areas expected to be affected

All ships were moved out to sea as a standard precaution, according to the Navy, and any personnel remaining on the island were sheltering in place. About 6,800 U.S. service members are assigned to Guam, according to the Pentagon.

With rain from the storm's outer bands already falling over the island as of late morning local time, the typhoon had maximum sustained winds of 140 mph (225 kph) with gusts peaking at 170 mph (274 kph), said Landon Aydlett, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Guam. Its center was about 75 miles (120 kilometers) southeast of the island and was moving to the north-northwest.

That was a slight downgrade from earlier when Mawar was reported to be a Category 4 "super typhoon," meaning maximum sustained winds of 150 mph (241 kph) or greater. But it still posed extreme danger to life and property.

The weather service warned of "considerable damage" from a "triple threat" of winds, torrential rains and life-threatening storm surge of 4 to 6 feet (1.2 to 2 meters), with dangerous surf of 20 to 30 feet (6 to 9 meters). It said the storm could hit Wednesday afternoon in the southern part of Guam, which lies west of the International Date Line and is a day ahead of the U.S. mainland and Hawaii.

"This is going to be a rough afternoon for us across the island," Aydlett said. "So watch out."

If Guam doesn't take a direct hit, it will be very close, said Patrick Doll, the lead weather service meteorologist in Guam. Mawar is a Malaysian word that means "rose," he noted.

Shool buses picked up residents at island community centers and transported them to 11 elementary schools outfitted as shelters. Civic workers in various villages warned residents to secure loose objects in their yards and seek shelter immediately. Some spread the word by megaphone, while others turned to social media. Power flickered off and on as the rain and wind intensified, and officials said nearly 900 people were in shelters.

Leon Guerrero urged residents in a YouTube message to remain calm and ordered the National Guard to help those in low-lying areas evacuate, saying, "We are at the crosshairs of Typhoon

Mawar. Take action now."

The storm was moving at 6 mph (10 kph) but had an eye 17 miles (27 kilometers) wide, meaning people at the typhoon's center could see calm conditions for over three hours and conclude, far too soon, that the worst is over, Doll said. As the eye leaves, the winds could rise to 150 mph (241 kph) in minutes, so people should remain sheltered until the government gives the all-clear.

"Folks may say, 'Hey it's over, we could go outside and start cleaning up," Doll said. "That is totally wrong.

In low-lying Agat along the southern coast, resident Reuel Drilon began preparing Friday and spent the weekend tying down patio furniture and trash containers. Nearly every home in the village, he said, has a mango tree—which officials warned could be ripped from the ground and become roadblocks and deadly flying projectiles.

"A lot of folks are keeping their eyes on trees," he told The Associated Press. "Down south, we have a lot of coconut trees and mango trees."

Joshua Paulino, a client manager at Xerox Guam, was sheltering at home in the central village of Chalan Pago with his wife, two sons and mother after the family closed the shutters and secured outdoor objects. He worried that the storm could dump rain on the island for a long time, since it was forecast to pass by gradually.

"This storm is moving very slowly so that is making me really uneasy," Paulino said by text message.

And an ocean away in Los Angeles, Marichelle Tanag was fretting from afar after her parents, who are in their 70s and have survived many typhoons in their decades on the island. They boarded up windows, stocked up on a couple of weeks of food, prepared the generator and filled bathtubs with water. Their home in Tamuning, also in central Guam, is made of concrete, but she worried about it nevertheless.

"Will the house stand? ... If not, will they be able to go to another place of safety if needed, as fast as possible, and not get in the way of any of the flying debris?" Tanag said by phone.

The western Pacific is "a notorious breeding ground for intense tropical cyclones," said Yale Climate Connections meteorologist Jeff Masters. "They've got a much bigger area to romp around in and more time to intensify."





SAIPAN (670) 235-9333



LIMITED TIME OFFERS. Not available in some locations. Product availability, combinability of discounts and specials, delivery areas and charges may vary. Limited time only. Available at the participating Pizza Hut® Restaurant on Saipan. Products not exactly as shown. Delivery charges apply and do not include a gratuity. \$15 minimum order for delivery. Limited delivery area. The Pizza Hut name, logos, and related marks are trademarks of Pizza Hut, LLC. © 2023 Pizza Hut, LLC

# CUC urges Rota residents to conserve, ration water use

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to remind the community of Rota of the importance of prioritizing water conservation and rationing during this critical time.

As of 6pm last Tuesday, CUC took precautionary safety measures in an-

ticipation of heavy rainfall through the night and turned off the water system to avoid potential contamination during high turbidity levels caused by heavy rain.

However, the Sinapalo water tank level should remain high and will continue to fill up as long as the water wells continue to pump water into the tank. Should the pumps lose power source during the storm, the water tank level will drop as water is consumed by the community.

CUC is requesting all Rota residents

and establishments to enforce water conservation and rationing and avoid unnecessary usage such as doing laundry, water blasting, cleaning, car washing, etc. as these activities will put an additional strain on the water supply.

By conservation and rationing of water, the community can work together to ensure that there is enough supply for essential purposes.

Should the electricity that sources the water well pumps go out dur-

ing the storm, CUC will prioritize getting electricity to the wells after the storm to bring the water tank level up and provide water services to the community.

For more information, contact CUC's automated hotline at (670) 236-4333 or visit its website at www.cucgov.org and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. For utility emergencies, call (670) 664-4282. (CUC)

# FEMA, other federal agencies support Mawar response

WASHINGTON, D.C.—President Joe Biden granted last Tuesday emergency declarations to both the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands and Guam ahead of Typhoon Mawar. The declarations authorize the Federal Emergency Management Agency to supplement territorial and local response efforts to help save lives, protect property, public health and safety beginning May 22, 2023 and continuing.

The President's action authorizes FEMA to coordinate all federal disaster relief efforts to alleviate the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population and to provide appropriate assistance to save lives and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe for the islands of Agrihan, Alamagan, Pagan, Rota, Saipan and Tinian.

Typhoon Mawar is predicted to impact nearby Guam as a potentially catastrophic Category 4 or 5 storm, with intense, damaging winds up to 160 mph and life-threatening storm surge across the island.

FEMA has more than 50 staff in Guam, with dozens more federal partners on the ground to support

incident management, communications, debris removal, engineering, infrastructure, health and medical, environmental response, military support and more, if needed.

With the presidential declaration, FEMA is authorized to identify, mobilize and provide at its discretion, equipment and resources necessary to alleviate the impacts of the emergency. Emergency protective measures, limited to direct federal assistance, under the public assistance program, will be provided at 75% federal funding.

Benigno B. Ruiz has been named federal coordinating officer for federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

Residents should heed the warnings of local and territorial officials. Have a plan for safely sheltering during the storm, check your disaster supplies and ensure you have adequate food, water, medication and other items. When the storm hits, residents should take shelter in an interior room away from windows, putting as many walls as possible between yourself and the destructive winds.

**Actions and safety tips** 

■ Typhoons bring high winds, flooding and storm surge. Residents should quickly heed safety warnings from local and territorial officials. Tune into local information sources and media for updates.

■ Territorial and local authorities are leading whole community efforts, with FEMA coordinating federal support to help the people, government and communities on Guam in case resources, personnel and teams can assist with lifesaving and life-sustaining activities.

■ If the immediate needs of survivors impacted by the storm supersede local and territorial resources, FEMA can also provide commodities like meals, water, blankets, cots, tents, tarps, baby supplies and more.

FEMA's distribution center in Guam is also connected to a network of warehouses and logistics capabilities, with another large warehouse in Hawaii. Additional commodities and supplies stand ready, if needed and requested.

Additional preparedness information is available in Ready.gov or download the FEMA App where you can receive weather warnings for up to five different locations nationwide. (PR)

### Advisory out for flash floods, coastal flooding

A flood watch remains in effect through this afternoon of Thursday. A coastal flood warning is also in effect until 6pm today, Thursday.

A coastal flood warning was put into effect for the Marianas since yesterday due to the approach of Typhoon Mawar.

Flash flooding caused by excessive rainfall continues to be possible in Guam and on Rota, Saipan, and Tinian.

Excessive runoff may result in considerable flooding of rivers, creeks, streams, and other low-lying and flood-prone locations. Creeks and streams may rise out of their banks. Flooding may occur in poor drainage and urban areas. Extensive street flooding and flooding of creeks and rivers are possible.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point:, Typhoon Mawar continues to approach Guam and Rota. As the storm gets closer, locally heavy showers are expected to increase significantly. Latest model guidance shows rainfall potential in excess of 15 inches, with locally heavier amounts of 20+ inches possible. This would result in extensive flooding across the islands. Events of this size can cause flooding in areas that normally do not flood.

Residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are being advised to take the necessary actions to protect flood-prone property. If travel is required, do not drive around barricades or through water of unknown depth.

Residents are also urged to monitor the latest forecasts and be alert for possible flood warnings. Those living in areas prone to flooding should be prepared to take action should flooding develop. If living near streams and rivers, prepare to move items away from stream and river banks. Make sure storm drains nearby are not clogged, especially in low-lying areas. (*PR*)



## Flights cancelled due to Typhoon Mawar

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Although the Commonwealth Ports Authority has not closed any of the

three CNMI airports, all domestic CNMI's airports remain open but and international flights have been cancelled since yesterday.

According to CPA executive director Christopher Tenorio, all of the airlines have chosen to cancel their flights as a precautionary measure.

Tenorio added that the last flight to and from the CNMI was last



Some 43 residents take shelter at the Marianas High School cafeteria in Susupe yesterday during the passage of Typhoon Mawar in the southern region of the Marianas. LEIGH GASES

### **RECOVERY**

From Page 1

chances and made sure to over-prepare. This early, that appears to have worked, and the CNMI administration is now moving on to the next phase of the its preparedness to-do list, which is implementing recovery efforts post-Mawar.

The CNMI administration, HSEM, and the newly formed Multi-Agency Coordination team met yesterday at the HSEM headquarters on Captial Hill for another weather briefing led by the National Weather Service.

After receiving updates on Typhoon Mawar—which has weakened

slightly from a Category 5 storm with 155 mph winds to a Category 4 with 140 mph winds—and the devastation it was expected to cause on Rota and in Guam, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, HSEM, MAC, and federal partners went over the recovery efforts.

"The storm is going to have major impact on Rota, We're at the phase where the storm is going to pass us at early afternoon and we're hunkered down on Rota. We've been preparing for that. We've prepared for this for several days and we're at the stage where the storm has come. [Now] we move forward with recovery. We're looking at resources that we need to mobilize to different islands," Palacios said.

Some of the recovery efforts discussed were resources that will be mobilized once it is safe to travel.

"We have been aware, for some time now, that Rota would be the most impacted by this storm. So we're sourcing the assets that need to go there with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Defense. Resources are here; it's just a matter of getting them to Rota. We're in pretty good shape," he said.

Palacios also shared that Typhoon Mawar is expected to continue to wreak havoc until mid-day today.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

### 3-DAY

From Page 1

sino Commission is expected to be finished today.

CCC board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero said in a notice Tuesday that the arbitration hearing started last May 23 before arbitrator Thomas J. Brewer.

Brewer is a renowned global arbiter and a member of the American Arbitration Association and the International Centre for Dispute Resolution.

The Office of the Attorney General is counsel for the CCC at the arbitration hearing.

DeLeon Guerrero set the CCC board's regular monthly meeting this Wednesday at 10:30am in the CCC conference room at the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai. At the top of the meeting's agenda is the arbitra-

The commission's consultation with their legal counsel to report on the arbitration and status of ongoing litigation with IPI was placed in the meeting's executive session. The commissioners are also expected to discuss during the executive session personnel and contract matters.

of the lack of internet service, access to the meeting via videoconference will not be available.

On Aug. 24, 2022, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted IPI's request for a preliminary injunction to prohibit the CCC from revoking IPI's Saipan exclusive casino license. Manglona issued the order to allow IPI to pursue its right to arbitration.

Arbitration is essentially a procedure wherein two parties agree on one or more arbitrators to make a decision in their dispute in order to resolve a disagreement outside of court proceedings.

DeLeon Guerrero said that because

into the land," Santos said.

The East Harbor is designated as a water sports recreational area. Santos said, however, that it has not been certified as a port of entry for commercial or smaller vessels to deliver

mayor of Rota can request from the governor or from DPL for the temporary use of the Rota East Harbor for smaller vessels to enter for the pur-

"With these photos though, it's

Tuesday afternoon.

"T'Way has cancelled flights as of yesterday while Jeju has cancelled flights for vesterday and today. Asiana has also cancelled flights today. Meanwhile United cancelled flights since last Tuesday until today. So all domestic flights are cancelled as of yesterday," he said.

"The last flight we had was last Tuesday, United Airlines came in in the morning then we had one by Jeju in the afternoon. After that, everything else was cancelled," Tenorio added.

Meanwhile, Tenorio said, seaports on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are all closed and will remain closed until further notice

"Seaports are closed as directed by the U.S. Coast Guard," he said.

In addition, Tenorio said the Federal Aviation Administration has asked CPA to submit regular updates on the condition of the CNMI's ports of entry.

"FAA has asked us to submit updates every four hours and every hour for Rota. We're just monitoring the storm and giving updates to FAA. We're also making sure all staff are safe. All staff have been sent home. Only essential employees are working right now like Ports Police, ARFF as they have to be here on standby," he said.

### **RESIDENTS**

From Page 1

paring a post-assessment of the effects of Typhoon Mawar once conditions improve on the island.

"We're just playing things by ear. Winds are really picking up. We were told during our briefing that the winds will start diminishing around midnight. So we are going to start prepping our post plan once we have some light."

Guerrero, who owns the general store Island A-Heart Retail, said the electrical power went out at their Sinapalo neighborhood around 1:40pm and internet service had been cut as well. About 20 minutes after the power went out was when the fury of Mawar started to be felt on Rota, he said.

"Around 2:30pm wind forces/velocity had tripled in the last 30 minutes. ...Strong winds and raining now. ... People are resilient and already know not to take chances during natural disasters," he told Saipan Tribune.

Guerrero, who, like other businesses on island, closed his store on the eve of Mawar's arrival, said the government did a great job with the early typhoon declaration and opening shelters on Rota.

"To the governor and business people, please help us and send assistance. We need transportation to bring shipments," he said.

As for his message to family and friends on Saipan, Guerrero said his family on Rota is okay, but admitted that going through what was initially declared a super typhoon is a scary thing. From being a 155-mph Category 5 typhoon, Mawar has weakened slightly to 140 mph and is now categorized as a Category 4 typhoon.

"To family, friends, and foes, thank you for your prayers and warnings to be safe. ... We are safe and secure here in Sinapalo," he said.

For Jacqueline Manglona, who owns the Pizzaria Bar & Grill in Sinapalo, she said her family made the necessary preparations for the coming of Mawar.

"We have prepared with the necessities. We closed the restaurant yesterday around 3pm due to inclement weather so that our staff could go home and prepare themselves and we will remain closed until the weather permits," she said.

Despite their readiness, though, Manglona admitted nothing really prepares you for a Category 4 typhoon.

"The winds have picked up the past hour. We are holding in there

and bracing for the worst," she told Saipan Tribune.

Bong Opiniano said the rain and wind have steadily picked up right after 1pm. He said they're fortunate to have enough provisions of food and water at their household as they get ready to hunker down until Mawar passes the CNMI's area of respon-

Nelia L. Samaniego, who works at Islander Rent A Car, said the wind and the rain started to pick up 5:50pm yesterday.

Before calling it a day yesterday, the rental company secured all the vehicles in their parking facility. Samaniego is hoping that flights return today.

Asked if Typhoon Mawar is as powerful as Typhoon Mangkhut back in 2015, the Songsong resident said the latter was definitely scarier.

The former Saipan resident said that, unlike Mangkhut, no electric posts have fallen in the wake of Mawar.

Guerrero, meanwhile, provided a quick update on the typhoon at a little past 6pm.

"We are getting pounded now. We iust lost a coconut tree," he said, adding the radar images of Mawar shows the hurler's eye encompassing the whole area of Guam and Rota.

"I think we're just getting started here. ...Rota will be pounded. ...The eye is so big that it covers both Guam and Rota," he said.

### **Preparing for post-assessment**

Hocog said the first inspection they will do is to check on Rota's port of entries so supplies can readily be brought to the island.

"First we're going to go and do our post-assessment at the port of entries-the airport, seaport, and east and west marina—to make sure that there are no obstructions to the road access."

Next up, she said, are the rest of the infrastructure on island, which includes the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power plant.

"We're going to be in contact with CUC and then have them do their assessment because we are experiencing an islandwide power outage right now. All the shelters, the command center, and the hospitals are all running on generators. So we're tracking this and hopefully with our assessment, our teams can go out and start, I guess, addressing the issues and rectifying what are causing the outages, and so they can bring back the engines and start running the feeders again to supply [power] to the villages of Rota," said Hocog.

### **FLOOD**

From Page 1

known as the Rota East Dock, was confirmed by both Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Department of Public Lands Secretary Teresita A. Santos.

In response to Saipan Tribune's inquiry as to the situation on Rota, Manglona said the water at the East Harbor is usually at least 10 feet below harbor level.

Manglona, who is currently on Saipan, attended a pre-landfall typhoon briefing with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang at the Emergency Operations Center in Capital Hill yesterday at 10am.

Rep. Julie A. Ogo (Ind-Rota), who also attended the typhoon briefing, said that Rota residents are hunkering down and are well prepared for the storm.

"Unfortunately, I am stuck here [on] Saipan," Ogo said.

Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), who also attended the typhoon briefing, has yet to respond to Saipan Tribune's request for updates as of press time.

Santos, who is a resident of Rota, said she's currently on Saipan, but based on what she is seeing in Facebook photos and videos, a strong typhoon surge and strong swells have

inundated the Rota East Harbor.

"I pray the water does not come

or download goods.

During inclement weather, the pose of delivering goods.

impossible for the harbor to be used as an alternate port of entry when the water floods the same," Santos said.

### Closures, cancelations, weather advisories, etc.

### **PSS classes, offices** closed Thursday

Public School System classes remain canceled and school and central offices remain closed on Thursday, May 25, 2023. Stay safe and take care. An announcement will be made should there be any updates or changes. (PR)

### **USCIS Guam and Saipan** offices closed

TAMUNING, Guam—ll U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Guam and Saipan offices, will be closed to the public due to Typhoon Mawar. Those with appointments scheduled will receive notification of a new date. All offices will remain closed until an "all-clear" is declared and the building is safe to reopen.

For the most up-to-date information on office closures, visit our website at www.uscis.gov. (USCIS)

### **Government offices** closed

Effective Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 12:30pm, all government offices io Saipan and Tinian were closed until an "all clear" declaration is announced. (PR)

### **Shelters activated**

Shelters were activated Monday afternoon, May 22, 2023. Residents who need shelter assistance are asked to use the shelters closest to their homes. Residents are expected to bring their own bedding, food, and drinks in the shelter. No pets are permitted in the shelter unless the pet is a certified service animal. An ID should be presented upon entry.

- 1. Marianas High School (Cafeteria)
- 2. Koblerville Elementary School (Cafeteria)
- 3. Kagman High School (Cafeteria)
- 4. Kagman Community Center
- 5. Tinian: Tinian Elementary School (Cafeteria)
- 6. Rota: Sinapalo Office on Aging

For Saipan, the Kagman Community Center was opened you May 23, 2023. The Office on Aging is open to accommodate persons with disabilities and those with medical needs. Services under these categories include individuals who are wheelchair-bound, who need oxygen, and for those with ailments that do not need to be admitted at the hospital.

For Tinian, the Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria is currently housing 1 shelteree, with a maximum capacity of 60. For persons with disabilities or the elderly, the Tinian Aging Center is open. For individuals requiring medical attention, the Tinian Health Center is open.

For Rota, the Office on

Aging in Sinapalo is the designated shelter for persons with disabilities and the elderly. For individuals requiring medical attention, the Rota Health Center is open. (PR)

### **Transportation to** shelters

Transport services to typhoon shelters for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota can be accessed by contacting the following telephone numbers:

### Saipan:

- 1. EOC State Warning Point: (670) 237-8000 (Primary Number)
- 2. Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority: One-Call/One-Click Transportation Information Resource Center: (670) 236-2682

### Tinian:

1. Public School System

**ONLINE RESOURCES** 

Tinian Elementary School Tinian: (670) 783-8962 or (670) 433-9250 (Primary)

2. Tinian Municipality Operations Center: (670) 433-1800 or (670) 433-1803 (Secondary)

- 1. Rota Mayor's Office: (670) 532-9451/2 (Primary Number)
- 2. Rota Mayor's Office Deputy Incident Commander: (670) 286-6618 (Secondary Number) (PR)

### **Commonwealth Utilities Corp.**

Stay informed of weather updates, developments through the following:

■ Joint Typhoon Warning Center: http://bit.ly/2AOBQl4

■ NWS Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NWSGuam/

■ NWS Website: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

■ CNMI Office of the Governor Website: https://governor.gov.mp/

■ NOAA National Weather Service: https://www.weather.gov/gum/activeHazards

■ CNMI EOC State Warning Point Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/cnmieocswp/

CNMI Office of the Governor Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/cnmigovernor

■ Joint Typhoon Warning Center Website: https://www.metoc.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html

Water services in Rota was turned off yesterday afternoon at about 1:30pm to prevent any potential contamination from high turbidity caused by the heavy rainfall from entering the water distribution system.

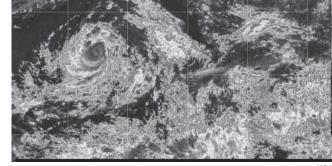
As Typhoon Mawar passes

through the Mariana Islands, CUC field staff will stand down until the "all-clear" is issued by the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management to ensure the safety of the CUC operators who are working diligently to maintain critical power, water and wastewater services for the community. (PR)

### PSS, NMC, NMTech, private schools

All Public School System classes, including Head Start/ Early Head Start and Early Intervention Programs, are canceled today May 25, 2023, until further notice. PSS has also made adjustments to its promotion and graduation schedules.

The continuation or cancellation of classes for other educational institutions will be announced by the respective institutions. (PR)



Enhanced image of Typhoon Mawar, courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as of 5:30pm yesterday. (https://www.goes.noaa.gov/guam/GUAMCOL.JPG).

### **COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPOR P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055 Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962 E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 03-2023

Opening date: May 08, 2023

Closing date: May 26, 2023

Location: SAIPAN Position(s): (1) ARFF Mechanic II

(1) Custodial-I

(1) Equipment Operator-I

(1) General Maintenance-I

(1) Master Electrician (2) Ports Police Trainee

SALARY PL 6/1 to 6/12 (\$9.27/hr to \$15.85/hr) PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr to \$12.42/hr) PL 4/1 to 4/12 (\$8.41/hr to \$14.38/hr)

PL 3/1 to 3/12 (\$8.01/hr to \$13.70/hr) PL 19/1 to 19/12 (17.48/hr to \$29.90/hr) PL 5/1 (\$8.83/hr)

Location: TINIAN

Position(s): (1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I (1) Custodial-I

PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr) PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr to \$12.42/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542-200(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport is no or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than 5:00 P.M. on Friday, May 26, 2023.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO



### **COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION**



### **INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-23-021**

### SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LED STREET LIGHT LUMINAIRES AND MATERIALS FOR THE STREETLIGHT EFFICIENCY PROJECT, SAIPAN.

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of Light Emitting Diode (LED) streetlight luminaires and materials to promote energy and cost saving measures on the power distribution system in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the United states Department of the Interior (USDOIA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-23-021, Supply and Delivery of LED Streetlight Luminaires and Materials for the Streetlight Efficiency Project, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 1, 2023 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) of the total bid price shall accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 12, 2023 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Lee T. Lieto, CUC Power Division Manager via email lee.lieto@cucgov.org; Jonathan Camacho, CUC Power Division Junior Engineer via email jonathan.camacho@cucgov.org; and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any non-material imperfection in the bid proposal if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

> Bettina G. Terlaje Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN Purchasing Administrator



# P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950



Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147 www.developcnmi.com

# JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION	COMPTROLLER, exempt
LOCATION AND DEPARTMENT	CEDA SAIPAN OFFICE
PER ANNUM	Minimum \$70,000.00
EMPLOYMENT TERM	Two (2) Year Contract, renewable
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT	HR 2023-01
OPENING DATE	05/10/2023
CLOSING DATE	05/26/2023 4:00 P.M.

Interested candidates can find the detailed job description and application form for the position on our website at https://developcnmi.com/jva.html or by scanning the QR code below.

Applications, along with a cover letter and CV, must be submitted to the CEDA Saipan office at 22390 Beach Road, Oleai, Unit 205, or by email to m.sablan@developcnmi.com and copied to c.kintol@developcnmi.com on or before the closing date of May 26, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

For inquiries, please contact Christy Kintol by email or at (670) 234-6245 ext. 310.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan **Executive Director** 



6 THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# **Opinion**



Published daily at 2/F JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

**Др** The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### **EDITORIAL**

# Keep fighting public corruption: The US Supreme Court keeps weakening the prosecutors' tools to pursue crooks in government

n two unanimous decisions handed down this month, the U.S. Supreme Court did exactly what was unfortunately expected and tossed out convictions won by famed corruption-buster former Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara. The justices didn't like what both Bharara and the trial court had agreed was criminal behavior by Andrew Cuomo's hatchet man Joe Percoco as well as a bunch of guys nailed in the ill-fated Buffalo Billion scandal.

In two separate cases, they were indicted, tried before a jury and convicted in 2018. Both verdicts were appealed and unanimously upheld in a joint ruling by a three-judge appeals panel in 2021 and the men appropriately packed off to federal prison. The cases were heard by the Big Nine last November, where the questions made clear where the justices were heading.

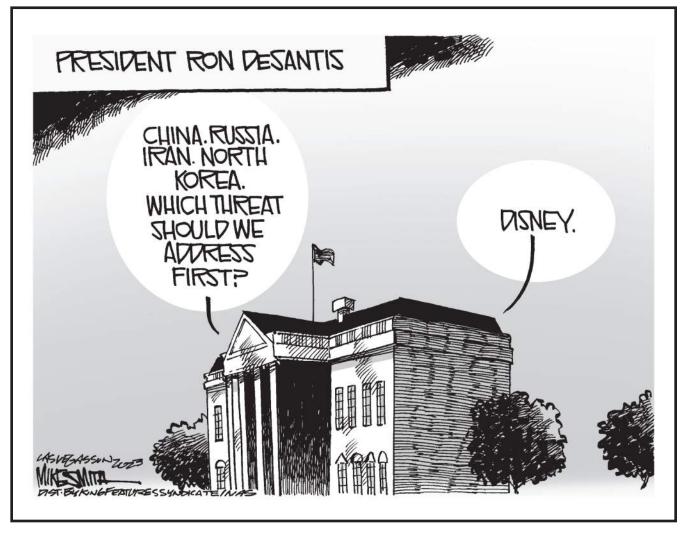
Thus the high court continues whittling away from the federal prosecutors' tools of mail fraud and wire fraud and honest services theft and the Hobbs Act (which forbids quid pro quo). Regardless of what the justices think, public corruption does exist.

Noted Clarence Thomas during the Percoco oral argument: "What is curious about this case is that the State of New York doesn't seem to be upset about this arrangement. It seems as though we are using a federal law to impose ethical standards on state activity." Yes, that's correct because these are complicated and fraught cases, risky for local prosecutors who have to run for election or be appointed. And local DAs, focused on common crimes, just don't have the lawyer-power and expertise to pursue powerful political figures, with the possible exception of the Manhattan DA's office.

So policing the crooks in local and state government nationwide is generally left to the U.S. lawmen and law-women, as we saw with cases against state Senate leaders Joe Bruno, Malcolm Smith, John Sampson and Dean Skelos and Assembly Speaker Shelly Silver.

How about beefing up the federal anti-corruption laws that the Supreme Court keeps watering down? That would be better than Jim Jordan's House Judiciary Committee attacking Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg.

©2023 New York Daily News



# To address gun violence, we first have to agree that something is wrong

he statistics are damning. There is no version of the numbers that reflects well on our country. There's no way to spin them in any direction that doesn't point to collective shame at the tragedy of loss of life.

In the first 138 days of 2023, according to the Gun Violence Archive, over 16,000 Americans have died as a result of gun violence, nearly 700 of them under the age of 18—almost five children a day. There have been 227 mass shooting events—again, in the first 138 days.

What is there to be said anymore?

The gun lobby supports gun rights over the lives of human beings—there is little evidence to the contrary. People remain steadfast in their support for these weapons, even as more and more Americans, and American children, die.

One of the top three causes of death for children under the age of 9, according to the CDC? Homicide, with a high likelihood that a gun was involved. As the Pew Research Center pointed out, gun deaths have only been rising, with an increase of 50% between 2019 and 2021.

I grew up in South Texas, surrounded by gun culture. My family of cattlemen in Colombia has guns. I'm not against guns. But I believe that if you need a license to legally and safely own and operate a vehicle, you probably need a license to legally and safely own and operate a gun. And we should probably ban a handful of guns that facilitate mass murder.

People will argue that civilians deserve access to the same weapons the police have, so that they may remain a militia, as the Second Amendment seems to indicate. But they never read the opening clause, which includes a pesky "well regulated"—which certainly doesn't apply to hobbyists and people who just like things that go boom.

But honestly, I don't think the police should have weapons that facilitate mass murder either.

There must be a way that we can both keep guns and prevent gun violence and gun deaths. In the 1980s, only about 10% of people used seat belts, according to AAA. Today, seat belts save thousands of lives. At some point, we collectively realized that a human life was worth more than a slight inconvenience.

Registering as a gun owner and submitting to background checks are an inconvenience, and giving up some particularly powerful firearms potentially more so. And yes, for some people, it will be more onerous than for others. But at the end of the day, isn't it worth it to save the lives of thousands of people?

Or even the life of one person? One child?

By ADRIANA E. RAMIREZ

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Adriana E. Ramírez is a columnist and InReview editor for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: aramirez@post-gazette.com.



Because the longer this goes on, the longer the gun lobby looks like they care more about guns than they do about people—than they do about children. After all, it's hard to find any legislation or policy from the NRA or its adherents intending to protect our most vulnerable. Instead, it's a psychotically single-minded defense of every inch of their "rights," no matter the cost.

History books will ask, with curiosity and judgment, how we let this happen—how hundreds of children died and we did nothing but offer canned expressions of lament, but no actions.

I used to think there was a limit, that there was a number of dead children that the gun lobby would finally see as unacceptable. But instead, many retreated to the conspiracies of "crisis actors" and "false flags"—anything to deny the reality of what our cultural fetish with guns has wrought.

Sixteen thousand people have died this year who should not have. And if that doesn't stir a response, then what about the 100 children under the age of 9? Something must happen, somewhere deep in the brain or the heart or the soul—some reaction that tells us that this is not right, and that something must be done.

We get driver's licenses and insurance to protect ourselves. We wear seatbelts and use car seats to protect ourselves and our children. We do all this to prevent death, to be a culture where children can grow without fear of everyday life.

Why can't we do the same with guns? Why can't we enact sensible measures to keep ourselves and our children safe? We can be a culture where children can grow up without a fear of dying at gunpoint—it is possible!

I have two kids, both preschoolers. I don't know how to equip them for what our country has become. I don't want them ever to think that the violent death of children, and the culture and political forces that facilitate it, is normal.

I want all our children to live. Is that too much to ask?

### **EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the

right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# What happened to Ecuador? How crime and power struggles brought a democracy to the brink

cuador's president, Guillermo Lasso, dissolved the country's legislature Wednesday to dodge an impeachment vote he appeared bound to lose. He invoked a previously untested constitutional provision known as "muerte cruzada," or "mutual death," which permits the president to send lawmakers packing and rule by decree while facing new elections within 90 days.

Lasso claimed to be defending not just himself but the country's democracy, saying: "This is a democratic decision, not only because it is constitutional but because it returns the power to the Ecuadorean people." But that argument wilts under scrutiny.

Confronting a power-hungry opposition, Lasso opted to push his presidential powers to their limits — or potentially beyond. The constitution permits muerte cruzada only under select conditions that may not have been met. Nonetheless, the military backed Lasso.

It's not clear this was in Ecuador's best interests. Shutting down the National Assembly is likely to stoke instability and, paradoxically, hasten the return to power of Lasso's sworn enemies: Rafael Correa, the strongman who served as president for a decade ending in 2017, and his left-wing populist party.

Even before the crisis, Ecuador had been battered by an unprecedented surge in violent crime and increasing emigration. Lasso's move portends more difficulty for one of the region's most vulnerable democracies.

Make no mistake, the impeachment process was unscrupulous. The opposition, led by Correa's party and disaffected conservatives, accused the president of tolerating corruption in government contracts but provided scant evidence directly implicating him. This was the second time the opposition tried to oust Lasso, a probusiness conservative elected in 2021.

Lasso chalked it up to an attempt to destabilize his government. About that, he was at least partly right.

Still, few expected him to survive the looming impeachment vote, which became a referendum on his presidency. Lasso, with little previous government experience, has failed to curb skyrocketing crime or fight widespread poverty and hunger, which

affects 2.5 million Ecuadoreans. His government engaged in perilously little public spending even as it sat on unprecedented reserves as oil prices climbed. Worse, Lasso indulged in public tirades against opponents and journalists more befitting of his populist opponents. Nostalgia for Correa, who governed with an even if authoritarian hand, is growing.

Given that his removal from office was nearly certain, Lasso's decision to disband the assembly was politically rational but democratically perilous for a few reasons.

First, Lasso's move risks sapping state institutions of their already scant legitimacy. When popular presidents rule by decree, it can be dangerous; when unpopular ones do, they court disaster.

Lasso advanced to the runoff that made him president with less than 20% of the vote and narrowly claimed victory thanks to the begrudging support of center and center-left voters willing to overlook his conservatism to avoid a return of Correa's illiberal populism. But he has since alienated those constituencies while failing to satisfy his conservative base. His only major legislation was a tax reform that exacted a heavy toll on the middle class.

Meanwhile, scandals have rocked his government. High-level associates accused of corruption and links to organized crime have become fugitives and turned up dead.

As of earlier this month, Lasso's approval rating had sunk below 14%. Nonetheless, moments after the shuttering of the assembly, a Lasso minister told journalists that his government would take advantage of the moment to push through a lightning round of executive decrees.

Ecuador's powerful Indigenous lobby promises to launch protests if Lasso makes muscular use of his unilateral powers. Instead of six months of strong government, the country faces more executive weakness as its challenges metastasize.

Moreover, Lasso's legislative shutdown could well empower Correa. During his rule, the former populist president reduced inequality but also harassed and spied on the press and opposition while accumulating more foreign debt. And the country shifted away from the United States and toward China, Russia and Iran.

By the time Correa left office in 2017, the country had also

By WILL FREEMAN

Los Angeles Times

Will Freeman is a fellow for Latin America studies at the Council on Foreign Relations.



drifted away from democracy. His successors have to some degree reversed that, but Ecuador remains a flawed democracy.

The problem with Correismo is not its economic leftism or social conservatism, both of which have moderated over time. It's the party's tendency to concentrate and cling to power. Correa did not leave office quietly, trying unsuccessfully to install a pliant successor. Since 2020, he has taken up residence in Belgium to dodge a corruption conviction and hatch troubling plans for his party's return to power. These involve replacing Ecuador's 2008 constitution to help him purge the government of opponents.

Although Correa's party is the largest in the assembly, he urged Lasso to disband it for months, anticipating — with good reason — that early elections would favor him. When Lasso did so, Correa openly celebrated.

Finally, the more energy Ecuador's politicians spend on political battles, the less they have to take on the country's most pressing fight: against organized crime. Ecuador's homicide rate last year surpassed Mexico's. Drug-fueled political assassinations, kidnappings and car bombs are becoming disturbingly commonplace in the once-peaceful country, overwhelming authorities.

The current political crisis further diminishes hope for progress toward a stabler Ecuador. Lasso's decree powers are unlikely to help given his underwhelming record and limited support.

When the impeachment drama started, Ecuador was facing an array of bad options. Unfortunately, Lasso may have chosen the worst of them.

# Smartphones take a toll on teenagers. What choice do parents have?

Te can't keep ignoring social media's harmful effects on the mental health of young people.

Across the world, regardless of skin color or language, people are suffering from mental health problems that are linked to the age at which they got their first smartphone or tablet, according to a new report from Sapien Labs. The nonprofit organization, which has a database of more than a million people in dozens of countries, found that the younger that people were when they got their first smartphone or tablet, the more likely they were to have mental health challenges as adults, including suicidal thoughts, a sense of being detached from reality and feelings of aggression toward others.

The effects were most pronounced among girls, who spend more time on social media than boys do. The harm of the devices seems to be rooted in the 24/7 access they provide to social media.

The longer that parents wait to give children portable digital devices, the better. Respondents who got their first smartphones or tablets in their later teens had a much stronger sense of self and ability to relate to others.

The study is the most recent piece of evidence that social media may be contributing to a global mental health crisis. While some studies show more complicated and even contradictory effects of platforms, with vulnerability differing from child to child, we can't afford to ignore the obvious: They're designed to keep people online as long as possible, regardless of the cost. Algorithms serve up to young users content that can distort their body image, such as extreme dieting messages and pro-anorexia accounts. They promote videos that can push teens to physically harm themselves or other people.

"They don't show you what you want to see — they show you what you can't look away from," Matthew Bergman, founder of the Social Media Victims Law Center, told me. "Psychologically discordant material triggers greater dopamine response than benign material. By definition, the algorithm is going to lead people down rabbit holes of more and more extreme content."

Screen time also displaces in-person interactions and hinders learning social skills, which take real-world practice. As the Sa-

pien report notes: "Social behavior is complex; it involves reading and decoding nuances in facial expression, body language, tone of voice, touch, and even olfactory cues to infer intent, establish connection, and build trust." Much of that gets lost on social media.

But despite growing awareness about the harms of these platforms, many parents buy smartphones for their kids to prevent them from feeling left out or being left behind by their classmates. "Parents have this really awful lose-lose tradeoff of maximizing safety for their children on the one hand, or putting them at what is a very clear social detriment," Marc Berkman, CEO of the L.A.-based nonprofit Organization for Social Media Safety, told me.

His group seeks to eliminate the trade-off by working with individual schools and school districts to create a "community approach," in which parents make a group decision on how old their kids will need to be before buying them smartphones. That way, no student ends up the outcast.

It's a great idea, and there are other things that parents can do as legislation crawls through Congress and state legislatures. They can use parental controls or purchase flip phones or Gabb phones that have no internet connection. They can advocate for their schools to make their classrooms smartphone-free spaces.

Regulating social media platforms is one of the rare issues with bipartisan support, but figuring out the best route has been difficult. For example, the Kids Online Safety Act, introduced this month by Sens. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), aims to restrict harmful content that social media companies are pumping at children. But some civil rights advocates worry that it could lead to censorship of content related to race, gender and sexuality.

Then there's the bipartisan Kids Act, which would exclude kids under 16 from access to addiction-fueling autoplay features and push alerts. There's also the Protecting Kids on Social Media Act that aims to ban all social media for minors under age 13 and require parental permission for children between ages 13 and 17.

A 1998 privacy law already forbids companies from collecting personal information from children younger than 13 without the consent of their parents. But social media platforms rely on users to By JEAN GUERRERO

Los Angeles Times

Jean Guerrero is an opinion columnist at the Los Angeles Times.



self-certify their age. A recent survey found that nearly 40% of children ages 8-12 use social media. Raising the minimum age of use to 16 or older might help. But some experts worry that stricter age verification standards could come at the expense of everyone's privacy.

In the meantime, states are taking things into their own hands. On Wednesday, Montana banned TikTok, effective as of 2024, more for privacy reasons than effects on teen users. In March, Utah passed laws that limit how children can use social media, with their wellbeing in mind. Arkansas, Texas and other states are working on proposals. Last year, California passed a law requiring online platforms to have default privacy and safety settings for children, but actual guidelines won't be set until a working group delivers recommendations next January.

For now, parents have no choice but to do the best they can to protect children based on insights from experts and researchers. Jean Twenge, a San Diego State University psychology professor and author of "Generations," told me the latest study offers a response to a question she hadn't seen answered: "Does it make a difference when my child gets his or her first smartphone?" The answer is yes. With each year that parents delay buying such devices for their children, they're giving those children a better shot at surviving their toxic effects.

Linking arms with other parents will make it easier for everyone. But parents can't solve this crisis on their own. Lawmakers must act, and there's no time to waste. **8** THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# The Weather

### **5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN TODAY** SATURDAY **SUNDAY** A chance of showers. Showers likely Scattered showers and A 50 percent chance of A chance of showers. and possibly a thunderstorm. Some thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy Partly sunny Partly sunny Mostly cloudy of the storms could produce heavy rainfall 74° 850 76° 78° **78º** YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE

### PICTURE TIME: 8:30 AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Super Typhoon Mawar is seen on satellite and radar to the southeast of Guam, southsoutheast of Saipan. Cloudy skies with numerous showers seen across the region. widespread heavy showers are seen to the southeast of Guam waters.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

AROUND THE GLOBE

MICRONESI	A	<b>▲</b> ▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms/Wind	86° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:14 AM	11:32 PM	-
Friday	11:05 AM	-	-
Saturday	-	12:12 AM	11:54 AM
Sunday	-	12:49 AM	12:42 PM
Monday	-	1:23 AM	1:30 PM

Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	80° / 59°
Hong Kong	Scattered Thunderstorms	82° / 79°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	84° / 73°
London	Partly Cloudy	67° / 49°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	69° / 57°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 80°
Melbourne	Rain	59° / 45°
Miami	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 73°
New York	Mostly Sunny 72°,	
Osaka	Cloudy	77° / 60°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	70° / 52°
Busan	Sunny	71° / 62°
Rome	Thunderstorms	80° / 59°
Salem	Cloudy	76° / 56°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	63° / 52°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	80° / 60°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	74° / 59°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	80° / 55°
TIDES: SAIP	AN HARBOR TOD	AY FEET
12:50 AM	High Tide	1.85
6:12 AM	Low Tide	1.45
9:55 AM	High Tide	1.66

**▲** ▼°F

62° / 47°

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE	Washington,
Today	10:14 AM	11:32 PM	-	TIDES: S
Friday	11:05 AM	-	-	12:50 Al
Saturday	-	12:12 AM	11:54 AM	6:12 AM
Sunday	-	12:49 AM	12:42 PM	9:55 AN
Monday	-	1:23 AM	1:30 PM	5:45 PN

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

Low Tide

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023

	LIGH	I SCH	EDULE A	12 OF 1	APKIL	. 30, 2	023
	DEP	ARTURES	6		AR	RIVALS	
SAIPAN-	GUAM (G	ium)		GUAM (G	UM)-SAI	PAN	
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN-	NARITA	(NRT)		NARITA (	(NRT)-SA	IPAN	
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-M	ANILA (I	MNL)		MANILA	(MNL)-GI	MAN	
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-	MANILA	(MNL)		MANILA	(MNL)-SA	AIPAN	
0Z626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7
			ICN				via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau,
			Guam				Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
			Guam, Palau				
SAIPAN-	INCHEO	N (ICN)		INCHEON	I (ICN)-SA	AIPAN	
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
0Z626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	0Z625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
				<b>-</b> 1 / /::			

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

### **STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.**

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN	TO ROTA			ROTA T	O SAIPAN		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/				Sat/Sun
			Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA T	O GUAM			GUAM T	O ROTA		
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN	TO TINIA	N		TINIAN	TO SAIPA	N	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily

SAIPAN TRIBUNE L O C A L THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023 **9** 

### NOAA adds more opportunities to comment on marine sanctuary plan

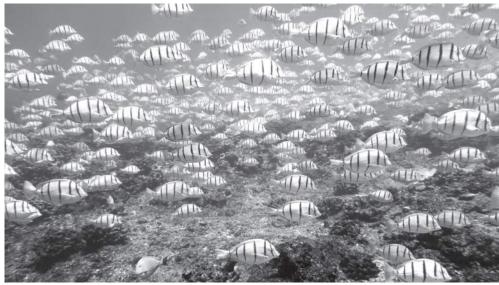
HONOLULU, O'ahu—The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is adding two more virtual meetings as it seeks public input on a proposal to create a new national marine sanctuary in and around the Pacific Remote Islands.

Members of the PRI Coalition, which submitted the sanctuary nomination, are traveling throughout the Pa-

# » PRI Coalition builds bridges through conversation and culture

cific to participate in ongoing public meetings and to encourage discussion within Indigenous Pacific Islander communities.

The proposal under consideration seeks not only to protect rare marine lifeforms and the pristine ecosystem in and around the PRI, but to also preserve and perpetuate the cultural and historic significance of the area for many Indigenous Pacific Islanders.



Convict Tangs

"We are having meaningful conversations with our Pacific Island cousins about something we are all passionate about—how the ocean connects us all," said Hoku Cody, campaign manager for the PRI Coalition. "Communication is crucial to this effort, and these public meetings provide a space for each perspective to share their reasons, thoughts, critiques, and concerns. It is also an opportunity for us to correct any misinformation

circulating right now."

Despite claims by the industrial fishing industry that a sanctuary designation in the area would significantly impact economies, science and data show that is not the case. According to an independent analysis of fishing effort in the PRI using publicly available Global Fishing Watch data, from 2013 to 2022, less than a half percent of the U.S. purse seine and U.S. longline fleets' fishing effort

unprotected area. Recent studies on Papahānaumokuākea show that fishing on the outer edges of the closed area results in greater catches. The vellowfin catch went up

happens inside the currently

MORGAN WINSTON/NOAA

yellowfin catch went up 50% on the area just outside Papahānaumokuākea, a strong indication that marine protected areas are effective.

Public comments are being accepted by NOAA as it considers whether to designate a national marine sanctuary for the area—about 777,000 square miles in and around the PRI—which would make it the world's largest protected ocean area. The nomination calls for the sanctuary area to honor the cultural and historical legacy of these islands and atolls, preserve the area as an intact cultural voyaging seascape, and protect abundant populations of wildlife such as coral, fish, sharks, turtles, rays, whales, dolphins, birds, and other important marine ocean species in the face of threats like deep-sea mining, climate change, and overfishing.

A national marine sanctuary designation would not only ensure the highest protections for the ocean and marine life. This proposed designation also:

■ Encourages a co-management structure that includes the voices of Indig-

enous Pacific Islanders in the decision-making process.

Advocates for a culturally-appropriate process for renaming the area.

Expands protections across the entire 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone in the Pacific Remote Islands Area around Howland and Baker Islands and Kingman Reef and Palmyra Atoll.

In-person meetings have been held in Hawai'i, Guam, and CNMI. The next in-person meeting is set for American Samoa on May 24. Two virtual meetings have been added for May 25/26 and May 31/June 1, depending on time zone. Public comments will be accepted virtually, online, or by mail through June 2, 2023. Additional information on upcoming meeting locations and how to submit comments online or by mail, can be found at https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/ pacific-remote-islands/.

For more information, visit protectPRI.com. (PR)



**CHANGE OF COMMAND** 

Lt. Freddy Hofschneider stands for a photo with Capt. Nicholas Simmons following the presentation of a U.S. Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal during a change of command ceremony for USCGC Oliver Henry (WPC 1140) at Victor Pier in Apra Harbor, Guam, last May 19, 2023. Capt. Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam, presided over the ceremony and was joined by many local officials and dignitaries, including Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, commander of Joint Region Marianas, and representatives of both the Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands legislatures.



U.S. COAST GUARD/CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR

Lt. Freddy Hofschneider stands for a photo with Seaman Thomason upon the presentation of the ship's commissioning pennant during a change of command ceremony for USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) at Victor Pier in Apra Harbor, Guam, on May 19, 2023.



Palmyra Atoll.

ERIK OBERG/ISLAND CONSERVATION



U.S. COAST GUARD/CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR

Lt. Raymond Cerrato and Lt. Freddy Hofschneider stand for a photo with Capt. Nicholas Simmons following the transfer of command from Hofschneider to Cerrato during a change of command ceremony for USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) at Victor Pier in Apra Harbor, Guam, on May 19, 2023.



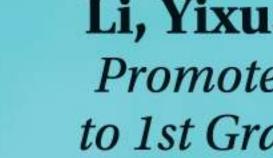
**SCHOOL YEAR 2022-2023** 

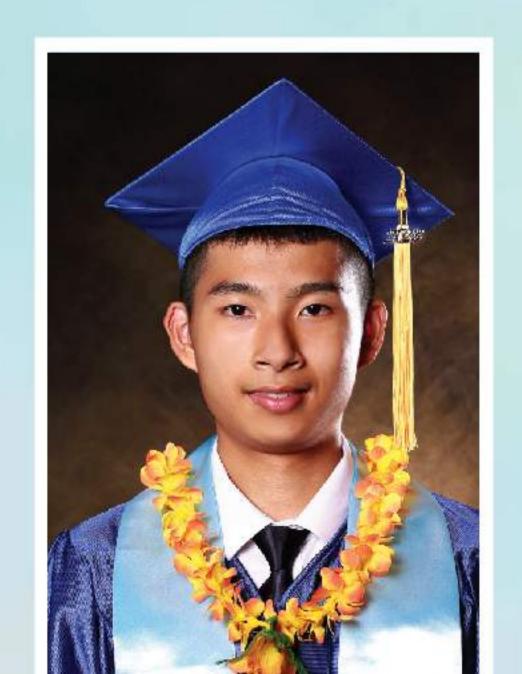
Continue the school's vision and mission to educate, inspire, and change lives MAY 25, 2023 • 6:00 P.M.

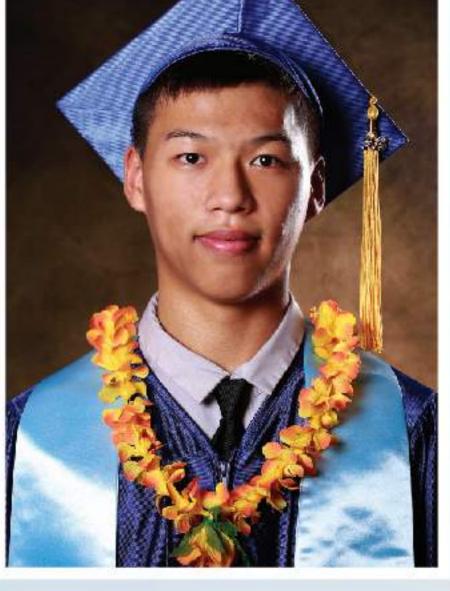
# CONGRATULATIONS



KINDERGARTEN

















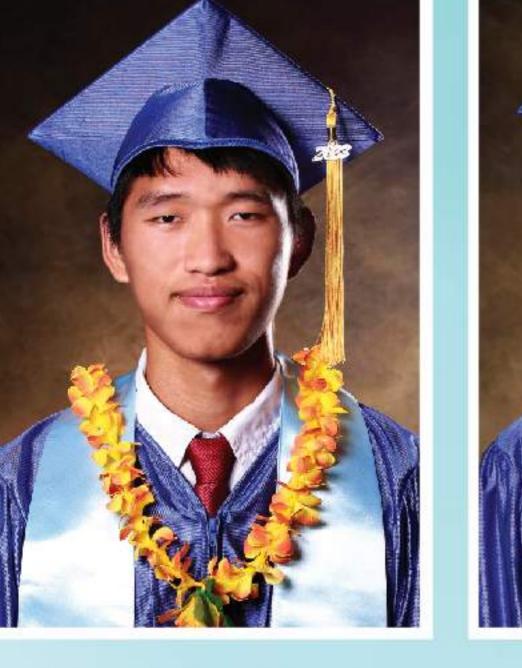




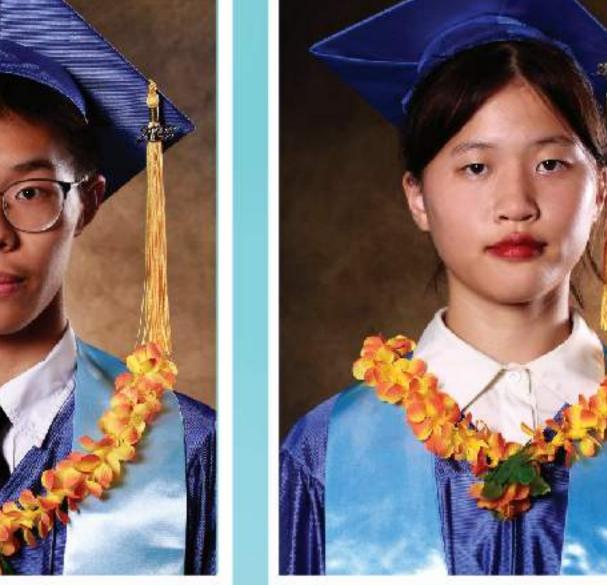


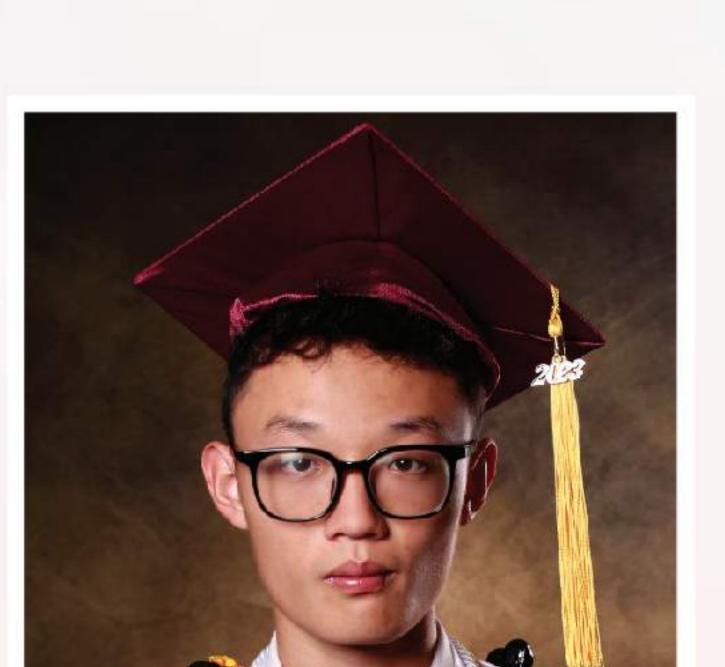








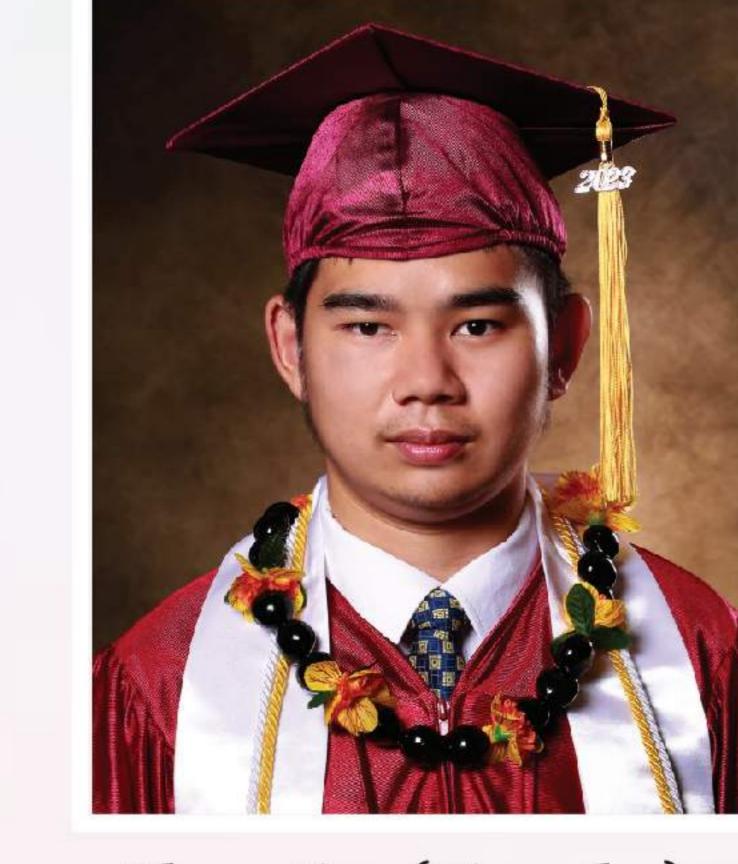




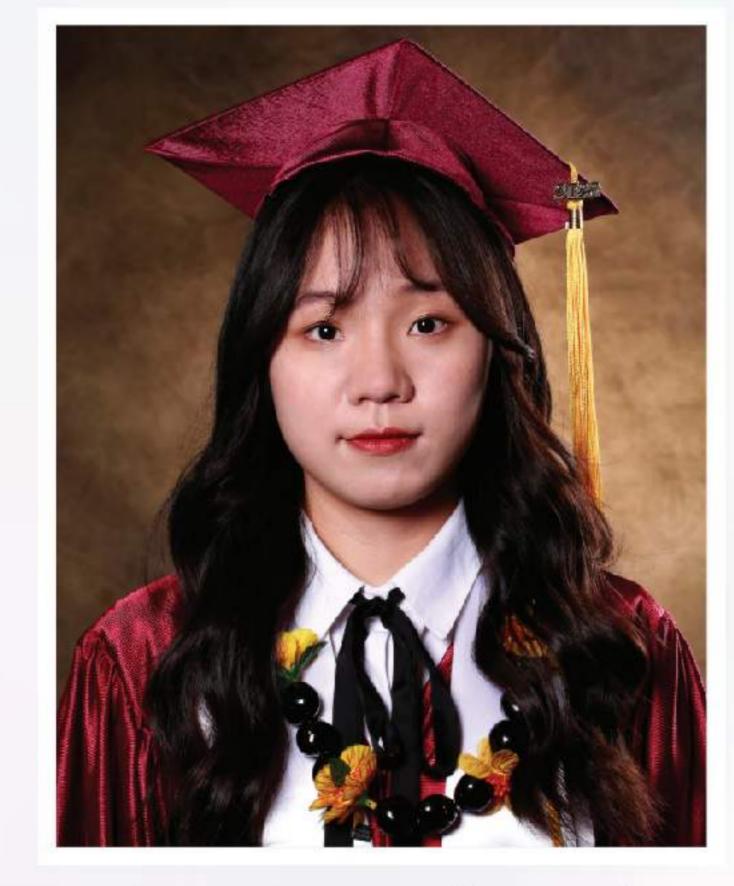
Luo, Yutian (Allen) Valedictorian **Next Destination** Major in Computer Science, Bob Jones University, South Carolina \$12,000 Scholarship from BJU



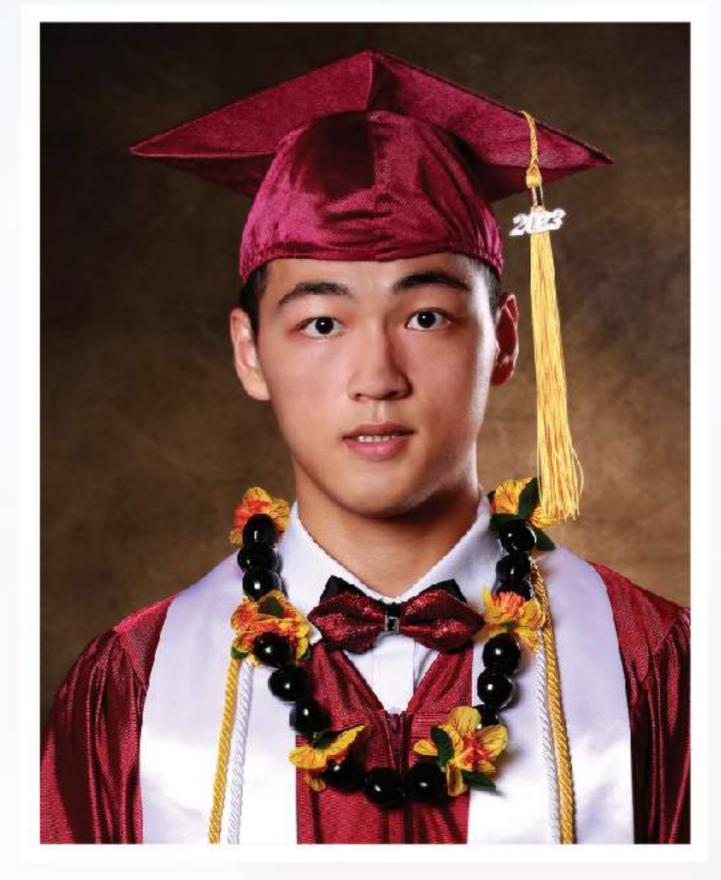
Dong, Diana **Next Destination** Major in Computer Science, Bob Jones University, South Carolina \$15,745 Scholarship from BJU. \$16,845 Scholarship from The University of Minnesota.



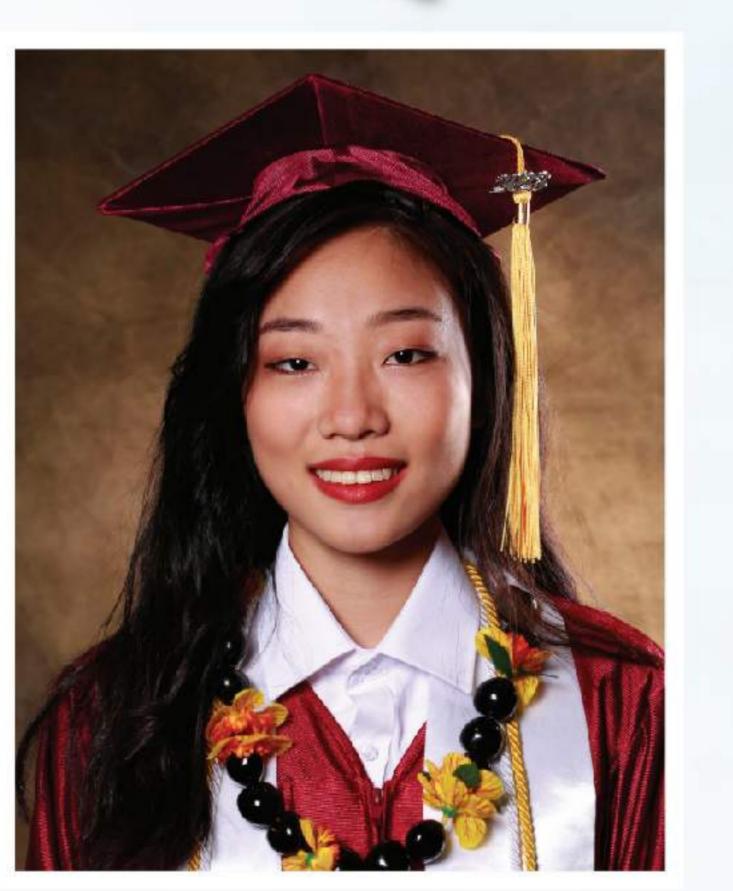
Chen, Jiye (Timothy) Major in Chemistry, Bob Jones University, South Carolina \$10,000 Scholarship from BJU



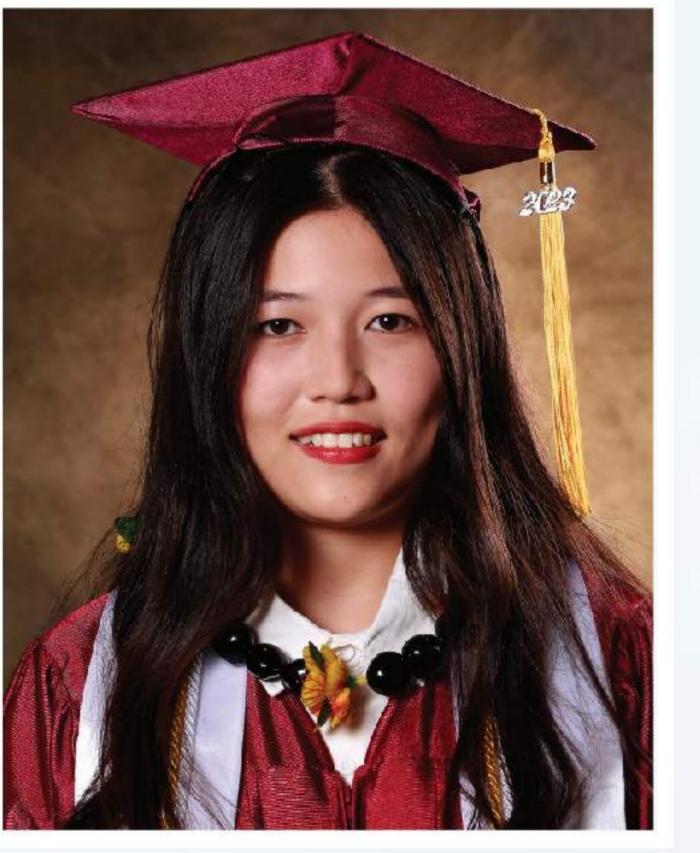
Cheng, Jiali (Angel) **Next Destination** Major in Pre-Pharmacy, Pensacola Christian College, Florida \$9,110 Scholarship from PCC



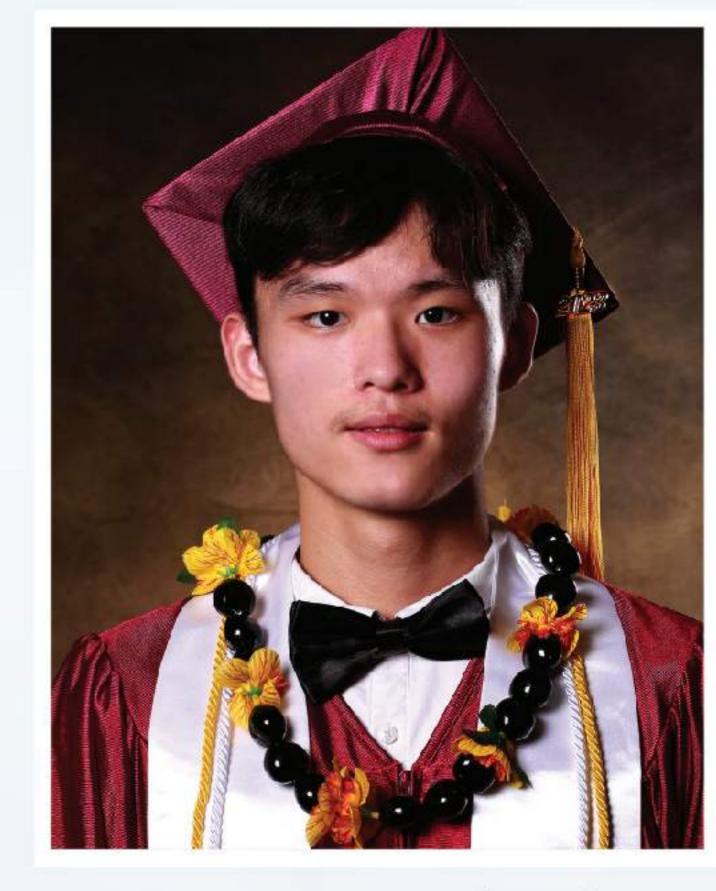
Hu, Enze (John) Major in Pre-Medicine, Pensacola Christian College, Florida \$9,110 Scholarship from PCC



Huang, Xiuying (Betty) Major in Elementary Education, Northern Marianas College, CNMI



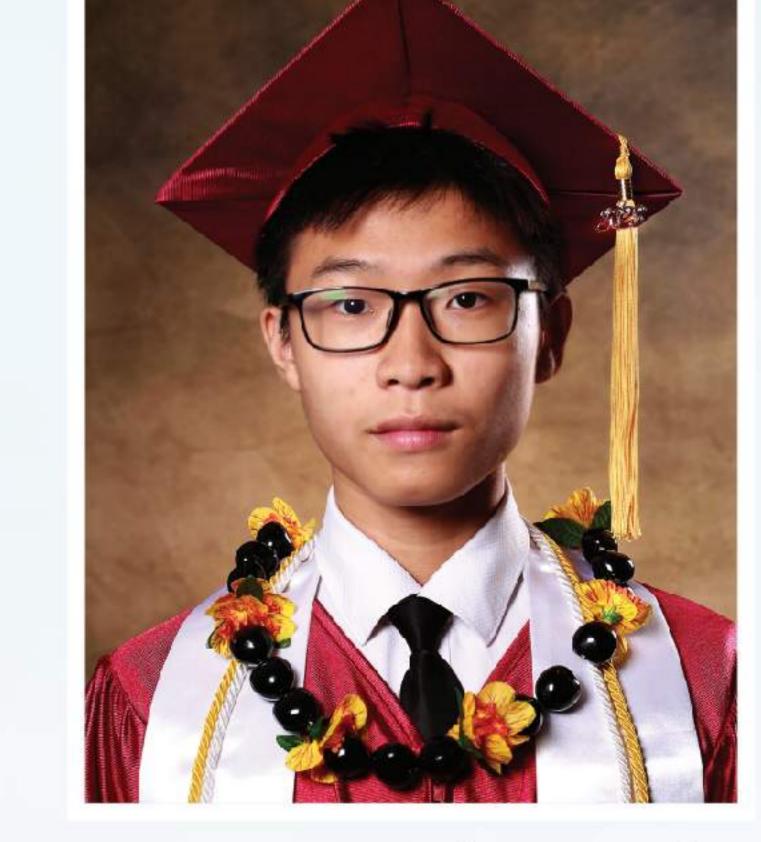
Jie, Mengmeng (Rose) Major in Pre-Dentistry, Bob Jones University, South Carolina \$12,000 Scholarship from BJU



Li, Tianwei (Bill) Major in Information Technology, Bob Jones University, South Carolina \$17,000 Scholarship from BJU



Shi, Yalin (Candy) Major in Management, Pensacola Christian College, Florida \$10,800 Scholarship from PCC



Tan, Enhao (Hudson) **Next Destination** Major in Computer Information Technology, Purdue University, Indiana



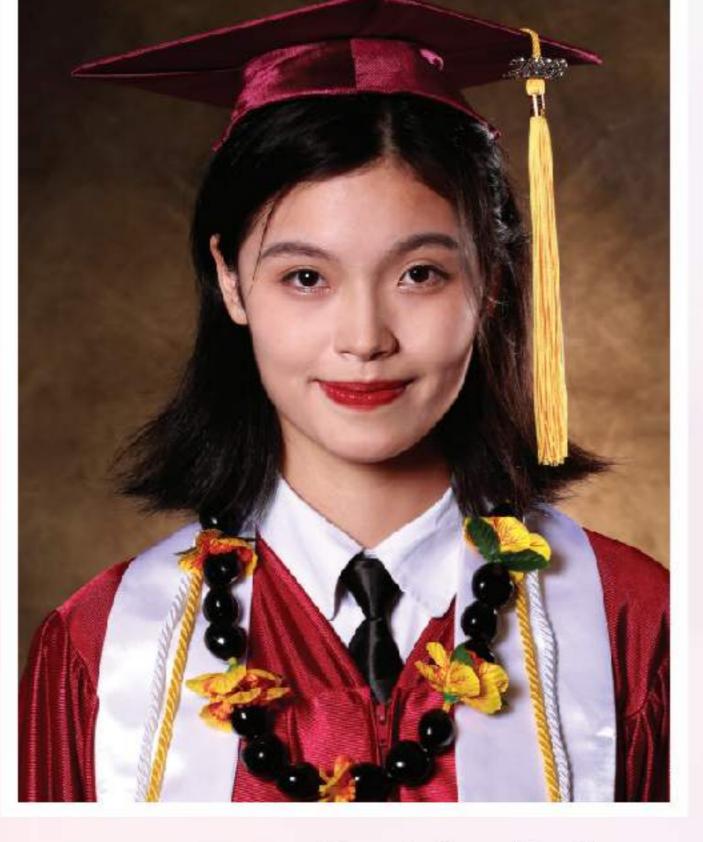
Wang, Zilan (Sophia) Pensacola Christian College, Florida \$10,800 Scholarship from PCC



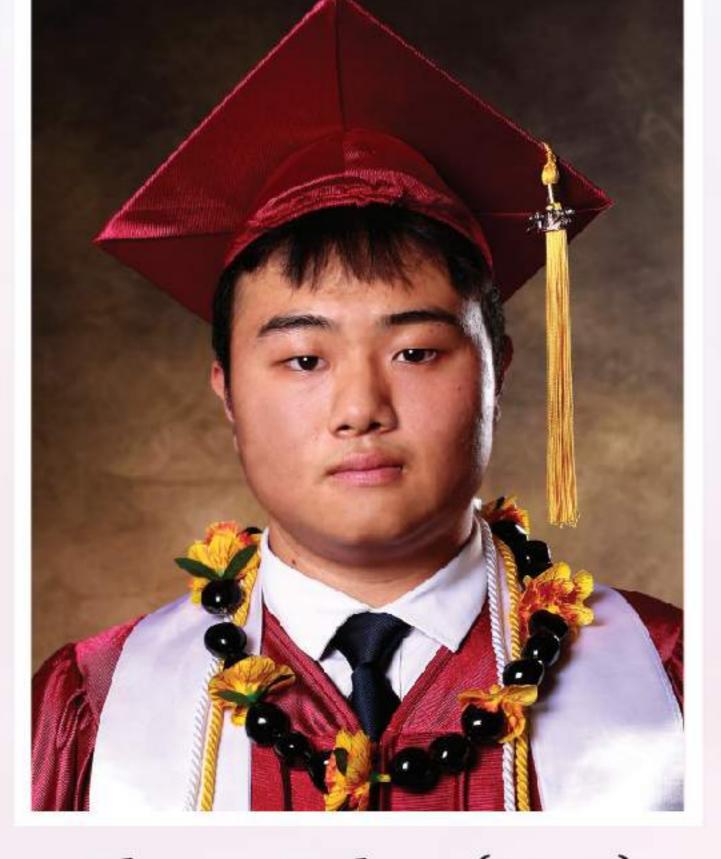
Wu, Xinlu (Mechaelia) **Next Destination** Major in Commerce, University of New South Wales, Australia, \$21,000 Scholarship from UNSW, Australia



Xu, Juan (Eunice) **Next Destination** Major in Pre-Dentistry, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington State



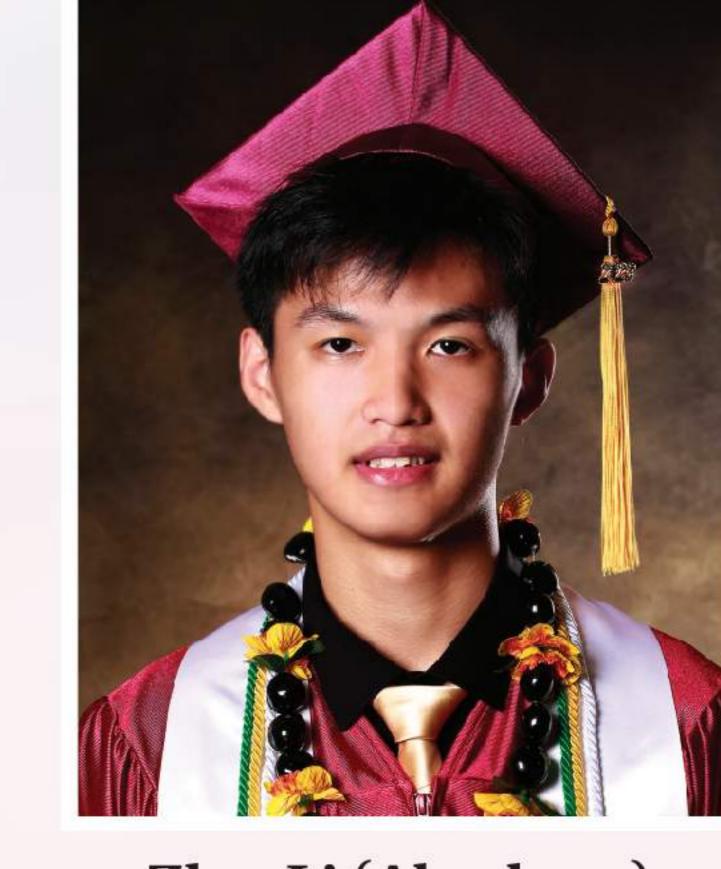
Zang, Beibei (Julia) Major in Art-Design, Bob Jones University, South Carolina \$12,000 Scholarship from BJU



Zhang, Zekun (Matt) Major in Film Making, Bob Jones University, South Carolina \$12,000 Scholarship from BJU



Zheng, Yidan (Tina) Major in Pre-Dentisty, Bob Jones University, South Carolina \$17,000 Scholarship from BJU



Zhu, Li (Abraham) Major in Interior Architecture, Bob Jones University, South Carolina \$18,500 Scholarship from BJU



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023 11

12 THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Business

# White House unveils new efforts to guide federal research of AI

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House on Tuesday announced new efforts to guide federally backed research on artificial intelligence as the Biden administration looks to get a firmer grip on understanding the risks and opportunities of the rapidly evolving technology.

Among the moves unveiled by the administration was a tweak to the United States' strategic plan on artificial intelligence research, which was last updated in 2019, to add greater emphasis on international collaboration with allies.

White House officials on Tuesday were also hosting a listening session with workers on their firsthand experiences with employers' use of automated technologies for surveillance, monitoring, evaluation, and management. And the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology issued a report focused on the risks and opportunities related to AI in education.

"The report recognizes that AI can enable new forms of interaction between educators and students, help educators address variability in learning, increase feedback loops, and support educators," the White House said in a statement. "It also underscores the risks associated with AI—including algorithmic bias—and the importance of trust, safety, and appropriate guardrails."

The U.S. government and private sector in recent



President Joe Biden speaks in the East Room of the White House, May 17, 2023, in Washington.

months have begun more publicly weighing the possibilities and perils of artificial intelligence.

Tools like the popular AI chatbot ChatGPT have sparked a surge of commercial investment in other AI tools that can write convincingly human-like text and churn out new images, music and computer code. The ease with which AI technology can be used to mimic humans has also propelled governments around the world to consider how it could take away jobs, trick people and spread disinformation.

Last week, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said Congress "must move quickly" to regulate artificial intelligence. He has also convened a bipartisan group of senators to work on legislation.

The latest efforts by the administration come after Vice President Kamala Harris met earlier this month with the heads of Google, Microsoft, ChatGPT-creator OpenAI and Anthropic. The administration also previously announced an investment of \$140 million to establish seven new AI research institutes.

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy on Tuesday also issued a new request for public input on national priorities "for mitigating AI risks, protecting individuals' rights and safety, and harnessing AI to improve lives."

### Medicaid plans to audit prices of costliest drugs

WASHINGTON (AP)— The Biden administration said Tuesday it is planning to conduct a yearly audit to verify the prices drug makers charge on a handful of the costliest prescriptions covered by Medicaid.

Under the proposal, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services would require as many as 10 drug makers every year to furnish the government with proprietary and non-proprietary information as evidence to support the price it charges states, which administer Medicaid.

Drugs that cost Medicaid the most money—some as much as \$2 million per treatment—will be selected for the survey.

The proposal was prompted by rising drug prices and complaints from states leaders who say they are having trouble negotiating those costs with manufacturers, said Dan Tsai, director of Center for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Services.

"We've got very high cost drugs, who have no competition," Tsai said Tuesday.

More than 90 million people are enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP, which provides the poorest Americans with health insurance.

Simply surveying the cost of the drugs won't change the price, and CMS doesn't have the power to force drug companies to change how much they charge. But the administration hopes making more information about how drug companies arrive at their pricing publicly available will put political pressure on the drug companies.

Drug makers that refuse to provide information to CMS will be referred to the U.S. Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General, which can launch criminal and civil investigations, he said.

The proposal hasn't been finalized yet, and the public will have 60 days to weigh in on it.

The move is likely to be met with stiff resistance from drug manufacturers, who are already gearing up for a showdown later this year with the federal health agency over a new program that will allow the government to negotiate the price on the drugs Medicare spends the most money on. The agency has not yet announced which drugs will be selected for that program, but they are likely to include some of the most popular drugs, such as the blood thinner Eliquis, used by older and disabled Americans who are on Medicare.

Medicare spends about \$10 billion filling Eliquis prescriptions every year.

# **Nation**

### ACROSS THE NATION

### Appeals court deals setback to Biden administration in gun stabilizing brace case

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal appeals court dealt a legal setback to the Biden administration on guns Tuesday in a lawsuit challenging tighter regulations on stabilizing braces, an accessory that has been used in several mass shootings in the U.S. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals temporarily blocked the Biden administration's rule from going into effect for the gun owners and groups who filed the lawsuit. The order came shortly before a deadline that would have required people to register stabilizing braces and pay a fee, or remove the braces from their weapons. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives finalized the rule earlier this year after finding the accessories make pistols as dangerously powerful and easy to conceal as short-barreled rifles or sawed-off shotguns, weapons that have been highly regulated since the days of Al Capone. The rule was quickly challenged by gun-rights groups that argued it violated Second Amendment protections by requiring millions of people to alter or register their weapons. They argued the ATF found a decade ago that the braces did not make pistols like short-barreled rifles.

### Texas sues Biden administration over asylum rule

The state of Texas is suing the Biden administration in an attempt to have a newly-introduced asylum rule thrown out, saying a phone app used by migrants to set up appointments at the border to seek entry into the United States is encouraging illegal immigration. The lawsuit filed Tuesday is the latest legal salvo attacking various aspects of the administration's plan to manage migration in the aftermath of the end of a key pandemic-era immigration regulation called Title 42. In the lawsuit, Texas argues that the asylum rule encourages the use of a cellphone app—called CBP On—for migrants who don't have proper documentation to make an appointments to come to a port of entry and seek entry into the United States. Texas argues the Biden administration is essentially encouraging people to come to the U.S. even though they don't have legal basis to stay. (AP)

### Man killed while helping ducklings safely cross busy California street

ROCKLIN, Calif. (AP)—His family says it's no surprise that Casey Rivara's final act was one of compassion. When he spotted a mama duck trying to guide her ducklings across a busy California intersection, Rivara stopped his car at a red light and got out to help them make it to safety. Rivara made sure traffic in all directions was stopped, witnesses said, then escorted the duck and her babies to the other side of the street around 8:15 p.m. last Thursday in suburban Rocklin, northeast of Sacramento. "All the ducks made it safely across," said 11-year-old Jude Peterson, who was watching with a carpool group after track practice. "He did something amazing." His good deed done, Rivara was walking back to his car when another vehicle came through the intersection and struck him. He flew through the air and landed in the street. The 41-yearold father of two died at the scene. "Casey was the kindest, most amazing husband and father. Even his last act in this world was a sign of his compassion," his aunt, Tracey Rivara, wrote on a verified GoFundMe page raising money for his widow and their 11-year-old daughter

and 6-year-old son. Nearly \$90,000 was raised by Tuesday afternoon. "The family is trying to figure out how to recover and keep going after this immense loss," his aunt wrote.

# Largest US gay rights group issues Florida travel advisory for anti-LGBTQ+ laws

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The largest LG-BTQ+ rights organization in the U.S. joined other civil rights organizations Tuesday in issuing a travel advisory for Florida, warning that newly passed laws and policies may pose risks to minorities, immigrants and gay travelers. The Human Rights Campaign joined the NAACP, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the Florida Immigrant Coalition and Equality Florida in issuing travel or relocation warnings for the Sunshine State, one of the most popular states for tourists to visit in the U.S. While the LGBTQ+ advocacy group said it wasn't calling for a boycott or making a blanket recommendation against visiting Florida, it said it wanted to highlight new laws passed by the Republican-controlled Florida Legislature that they said are hostile to the LGBTQ+ community, restrict abortion access and allow Floridians to carry concealed weapons without a permit. "Those who visit must join us in their vocal opposition to these dangerous policies," Kelley Robinson, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement. "Those who pick another place to work, to go to school or to spend their vacation should make clear why they're not heading to Florida." Last weekend, the NAACP, the nation's oldest civil rights organization, issued its advisory warning that recent laws and policies championed by Gov. Ron DeSantis and Florida lawmakers are "openly hostile toward African Americans, people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals."

# Toddler shot by stray bullet at Utah day care while playing outside

SPANISH FORK, Utah (AP)—A 2-year-old boy shot in the head by a stray bullet while playing outside at day care in Utah is in stable condition, the facility's owner and authorities said Tuesday. Spanish Fork police believe the bullet came from a pellet or air gun shot from a farming field across the street west of the facility, Lt. Clay Slaymaker said. There are currently no suspects, but a bullet hole could be seen through the vinyl fence that wraps the play area where the incident occurred. Lane Mugleston, the owner of Leap Ahead Daycare, confirmed that the shooting happened at his facility in Spanish Fork. He said two employees were outside when one near the toddler noticed him suddenly stumble, bleeding from the face, while kids played in the fenced-in area outside the day care on Monday afternoon. Nobody heard the shots at the facility, which is in a light industrial area near an airport, he said. "We're absolutely dumbfounded. And we pray for the family and hope that the doctors are able to do everything needed, but we're absolutely surprised," Mugleston said. Mugleston said employees contacted the toddler's parents after observing the injuries and when doctors saw a small-caliber bullet lodged in the victim's head on brain scans later in the evening, they called authorities. The young boy was then transported the child to Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City, 52 miles (84 kilometers) north of Spanish Fork.

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023 **13** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Asia

### **AS NORTH TO LAUNCH 1ST SPY SATELLITE**

### S. Korea to conduct satellite launch

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)-South Korea was set to launch its first commercialgrade satellite Wednesday as rival North Korea pushed plans forward to place its first military spy satellite into orbit.

The South Korean satellite will be launched by a domestically made rocket under the country's space development program. Seoul officials say its launch has no military purpose, but many experts say it will eventually help South Korea acquire technologies and knowhow required to operate military surveillance satellites and build more powerful missiles.

The Nuri space launch vehicle was scheduled to lift off early Wednesday evening from a launch facility on a southern South Korean island, if no unexpected weather or other problems occur at the last minute, according to the Science Ministry.

Aboard the rocket are the main satellite, called "Next Generation Small Satellite 2," and seven other smaller, cubeshaped satellites. The main one is tasked with verifying imaging radar technology and observing cosmic radiation in near-Earth orbit, a ministry statement said.

Wednesday's launch is the third of its kind involving Nuri, South Korea's first homegrown rocket.

In its first launch in 2021, the rocket's dummy payload reached the desired altitude but failed to enter orbit. In its second attempt last year, South Korea successfully put what it called a "performance verification satellite" into orbit in a launch mainly designed to examine the Nuri rocket. South Korea became the world's 10th nation to send a satellite into space with its own technology.

The latest launch comes amid heightened military tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Since the start of 2022, North Korea has test-launched more than 100 missiles some of them nuclear-capable weapons designed to strike South Korea and the U.S. —in what it called efforts to respond to the expansion of military drills between the United States and South Korea. Analysts say the North's testing spree was likely meant to pressure its rivals to scale back their military training and relax economic sanctions on the North.

On May 16, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reviewed a finished military spy satellite at the country's aerospace center and approved an unspecified future action plan on its launch.

During the visit, Kim cited the strategic significance of a spy satellite while vowing to bolster the country's defense as "U.S. imperialists and (South) Korean puppet villains escalate their confrontational moves," according to state media.

Some experts say the North Korean spy satellite disclosed in its state media doesn't appear to be sophisticated enough to produce high-resolution imagery that can meaningfully boost the country's surveillance capacities.

But Lee Choon Geun, an honorary research fellow at South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute, said the North Korean satellite is still likely be capable of monitoring the deployment of incoming U.S. strategic assets like an aircraft carrier and the movements of South Korean warships and fighter jets.

"It would be much better to have such a satellite than not having one," Lee said.

After its first spy satellite launch, Lee predicted North Korea will try to send several more satellites into space, likely more advanced ones. "With three to five satellites, North Korea can have an almost real-time monitoring on the Korean Peninsula," he said.

Lee said the North's first spy satellite launch could happen in June. Other experts say the launch will more likely happen in the latter half of this year.

# World

# EU welcomes F-16 decision for training Ukraine pilots



European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell. center. speaks with Cypriot Defense Minister Michalis Giorgallas during a meeting of EU defense ministers at the European Council building in Brussels, Tuesday, May 23,

**BRUSSELS** (AP)—The European Union's foreign policy chief said Tuesday that the U.S. green light to allow Ukrainian pilots to get training to fly F-16s has created an inexorable momentum that will inevitably bring the fighter jets to the Ukrainian battlefield.

"You know, it's always the same thing: we discuss, at the beginning everybody is reluctant," said Josep Borrell, giving the example of the long debate and initial opposition to the dispatch of advanced Leopard battle tanks to Ukraine.

"And at the end—with the Leopards, with the F-16 at the end—the decision comes to provide this military support because it is absolutely needed."

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg confirmed that the training decision was the exact thrust necessary toward making the jets available to Ukraine.

"Announcing clearly that they will start training—this is an important step that partly will enable us to deliver fighter jets at some stage," Stoltenberg said before meeting with EU defense ministers. He said it also proved that the West wouldn't stand down in the face of Russia, saying such a decision "is sending a very clear signal that we are there for the long term and that Russia can not wait us out."

Borrell added that training for Ukrainian pilots had already begun in Poland and some other countries, though Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak said that such training was still in the planning phase. The Netherlands and Denmark, among others, are also making plans for such training.

No decision on actually delivering fourth-generation fighter jets has been taken yet, but training pilots now —a process that takes several months-will help speed up battle readiness once a formal decision is made.

"We can continue and also finalize the plans that we're making with Denmark and other allies to start these these trainings. And of course, that is the first step that you have to take," Dutch Defense Minister Kajsa Ollongren said.

"We will continue discussing with our allies and with countries that might have F-16s available about that next step. But that's not on the table right now," Ollongren said.

Ukraine has long begged for the sophisticated fighter to give it a combat edge as it battles Russia's invasion, now in its second year. And this new plan opens the door for several nations to supply the aircraft and for the U.S. to help train the pilots.

With the decision, the Biden administration has made a sharp reversal after refusing to approve any transfer of the aircraft or conduct training for more than a year because of worries that it could escalate tensions with Russia. U.S. officials also have argued against the F-16 by saying that learning to fly and logistically support such an advanced aircraft would be difficult and take months.

### S. Korean experts visit Fukushima nuclear plant

TOKYO (AP)—A team of South Korean government experts began a two-day tour of Japan's tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant on Tuesday to examine a contentious plan to release treated but still slightly radioactive wastewater into the sea.

Officials from the Japanese government and the plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, were to show the 21-member delegation several facilities related to treatment, safety checks, transport and dilution of the water, Japanese officials said Tuesday.

The plan has faced fierce protests from local fishing communities concerned about safety and reputational damage. Neighboring countries, including South Korea, China and Pacific Island nations, have also raised safety concerns.

The water discharge plan has particularly been a sensitive issue between Tokyo and Seoul, which are now working to repair long-strained bilateral ties to address bigger challenges such as security threats from China and North Korea.

Yoo Guk-hee, the chairperson of South Korea's Nuclear Safety and Security Commission who heads the delegation, told reporters after the first day's visit that his team needs more data, including about the water filtering system, to determine contamination levels before and after treatment and whether it is safely operated. "We will need all the information to reach an overall conclusion," he said.

"What we are trying to focus on is to determine, based Energy Agency, a U.N. nucleon scientific evidence and standards, how these facilities work and whether these facilities are working properly, as well as whether the discharge procedure and process are adequate," Yoo said. Asked if there is anything that can be done to quell South Korean people's anxiety over the discharge plan, he said, "If we can explain in detail what we have inspected, I think that is meaningful."

Japanese Trade and Industry Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura

promised earlier Tuesday to provide a "thorough explanation" to the South Korean experts and show them the current status of water tanks, other facilities and construction at the plant. "I expect this will deepen the understanding in South Korea about the safety of our planned release" of the treated water, Nishimura said.

He has said the South Korean team's visit is not an inspection of the discharge plan, which is already under review by the International Atomic ar watchdog. After its second day at the plant Wednesday, Yoo's team is to meet with Japanese officials in Tokyo before heading home Friday.

Japanese officials say only water that has been treated to legally releasable levels and further diluted with large amounts of seawater will be released into the sea about 1 kilometer (0.6 mile) offshore through an undersea tunnel, and the controlled release over decades will make it harmless to people and marine life.

### Israel more than double strikes on Iranian targets in Syria

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's defense minister Monday said that Israel's new government has greatly increased the number of strikes on Iranian targets since taking office late last year.

Yoav Gallant did not provide an exact number of airstrikes. But the address. delivered at a security conference, marked rare public comments on Israeli military activity in Syria.

"Since I took office, the number of Israeli strikes against the Iranians in Syria have doubled," Gallant said.

"As part of this campaign, we are working methodically to strike the Iranian intelligence capabilities in Syria,"

he said. "These strikes inflict significant damage to the attempts by the Revolutionary Guard to establish a foothold a few kilometers from the Israeli border."

Gallant also accused Iran of converting civilian ships into military vessels armed with weapons such as drones, missiles and intelligencegathering capabilities. He said Iran hopes to station these ships at long distances from Iran.

"Iran aims to expand its reach to the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea and even the shores of the Mediterranean," he said. "This is a structured plan designed to threaten trade and flight routes—both military and civilian-and to create a permanent threat in the maritime arena."

Israel considers Iran to be its greatest enemy, citing its calls for Israel's destruction and its support for anti-Israel militant groups across the region. It also accuses Iran of trying to develop a nuclear bomb—a charge Iran denies.

Israeli officials have acknowledged carrying out hundreds of strikes on Iranian targets in neighboring Syriawhere Iran has sent advisers and forces to assist President Bashar Assad in a 12-year civil war. But officials have given few details over the years and almost never comment on specific operations.

14 THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023

# Environment

'2M killed, \$4.3 trillion in damage from extreme Weather in past half-century'

ENEVA (AP)—The economic damage of weather- and climate-related disasters continues to rise, even as improvements in early warning have helped reduce the human toll, the U.N. weather agency said Monday.

The World Meteorological Organization, in an updated report, tallied nearly 12,000 extreme weather, climate and water-related events over the past half-century around the globe that have killed more than 2 million people and caused economic damage of \$4.3 trillion.

The stark recap from WMO came as it opened its four-yearly congress among member countries, pressing the message that more needs to be done to improve alert systems for extreme weather events by a target date of 2027.

"Economic losses have soared. But improved early warnings and coordinated disaster management has slashed the human casualty toll over the past half a century" WMO said in a statement. The trend of rising economic damage is expected to continue.

The Geneva-based agency has repeatedly warned about the impact of man-made climate change, saying rising temperatures have increased the frequency and intensity of extreme weather—including floods, hurricanes, cyclones, heat waves and drought.

WMO says early warning systems have helped reduce deaths linked to climate and other weather-related catastrophes.

Most of the economic damage between 1970 and 2021 came in the United States—totaling \$1.7 trillion—while nine in 10 deaths worldwide took place in developing countries. The economic impact, relative to gross domestic product, has been felt more in developing countries, WMO says.

WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said the cyclonic storm Mocha that swept across Myanmar and Bangladesh this month exemplified how the "most vulnerable communities unfortunately bear the brunt of weather, climate and water-related hazards."

"In the past, both Myanmar and Bangladesh suffered death tolls of tens and even hundreds of thousands of people," he said, alluding to previous catastrophes. "Thanks to early warnings and disaster management these catastrophic mortality rates are now thankfully history."

"Early warnings save lives," he said. The findings were a part of an update to WMO's Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes, which previously had covered a nearly 50-year period through 2019.

WMO acknowledges some caveats to its report: While the number of disasters has risen, some of that may be due to improvements in reporting about extreme weather events that might have been overlooked in the past.

While the findings account for inflation, WMO cautioned that estimating the economic toll can be an inexact science, and the reports could understate the actual damage.

Worldwide, tropical cyclones were the primary cause of reported human and economic losses.

In Africa, WMO counted more than 1,800 disasters and 733,585 deaths related to weather, climate and water extremes—including flooding and storm surges. The costliest was Tropical Cyclone Idai in 2019, which ran to \$2.1 billion in damages.

Nearly 1,500 disasters hit the southwest Pacific, causing 66,951 deaths and \$185.8 billion in economic losses.

Asia faced over 3,600 disasters, costing 984,263 lives and \$1.4 trillion in economic losses—that cost mostly due to the impact of cyclones. South America had 943 disasters that resulted in 58,484 deaths and over \$115 billion in economic losses.

Over 2,100 disasters in North America, Central America and the Caribbean led to 77,454 deaths and \$2 trillion in economic losses.

Europe saw nearly 1,800 disasters that led to 166,492 deaths and \$562 billion in economic losses.

Last week, WMO forecast a 66% chance that within the next five years the Earth will face a year that averages 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than in the mid-19th century, reaching a key threshold targeted by the Paris climate accord of 2015.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023 15

# Life & Style

# Bulgarian writer wins Int'l Booker Prize for memory novel

LONDON (AP)—Bulgarian writer Georgi Gospodinov and translator Angela Rodel won the International Booker Prize on Tuesday for "Time Shelter," a darkly comic novel about the dangerous appeal of nostalgia.

The book beat five other finalists to the prize, which recognizes fiction from around the world that has been translated into English. The 50,000 pounds (\$62,000) in prize money is divided between author and translator.

"Time Shelter" imagines a clinic that recreates the past, with each floor reproducing a different decade. Intended as a way to help people with dementia unlock their memories, it soon becomes a magnet for people eager to escape the modern world.

Gospodinov, 55, said he began writing his book about "the weaponization of nostalgia" in 2016, the year of the election of Donald Trump and the U.K.'s Brexit referendum. He said it was a time when "anxiety was in the air."

"I wanted to write a novel about the monster of the past," he said. "Because you can see in this time ... that populist politics, actually, they paid us with the empty check of the past."

French novelist Leila Slimani, who chaired the judging panel, said it was "a brilliant novel full of irony and melancholy."

"It's a very profound work that deals with a contemporary question and also a philosophical question: What happens to us when our memories disappear?" she said.

"But it is also a great novel about Europe, a continent in need of a future, where the past is reinvented and where nostalgia can be a poison."

Gospodinov is one of Bulgaria's most-translated authors. "Time Shelter" has also won Italy's Strega European Prize for literature in Italian translation.

The International Booker Prize is awarded every year to a translated work of fiction published in the U.K. or Ireland. It is run alongside the Booker Prize for English-language fiction, which will be handed out in the autumn.

The prize was set up to boost the profile of fiction in other languages—which accounts for only a small share of books published in Britain—and to



salute the underappreciated work of literary translators.

Last year's winners were Indian writer Geetanjali Shree and American translator Daisy Rockwell for "Tomb of Sand." Rodel said she was grateful to the prize for rejecting the belief that that "if you're a good translator, maybe you shouldn't even be noticed."

"This is a creative process,"

she said. "This is a definite collaborative work of art that we're creating with our authors. I'm just endlessly grateful to the Booker for putting that out in front in this award."

# Netflix to charge an additional \$8 month for viewers living outside US subscribers' house

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE

Netflix on Tuesday outlined how it intends to crack down on the rampant sharing of account passwords in the U.S., its latest bid to reel in more subscribers to its video streaming service as its growth slows.

To combat password sharing, Netflix said it will limit U.S. viewership of its programming to people living in the same household. Those who subscribe to Netflix's standard or premium plans — which cost \$15.50 to \$20 per month — will be able to allow another person living outside their household to use their password for an additional \$8 per month, a \$2 discount from the company's basic plan.

Without providing details how it authenticates subscriber identities or accounts, Netflix assured that everyone living in the same household of a U.S. customer will still be able to stream TV series and movies "wherever they are — at home, on the go, on holiday." The company based in Los Gatos, California has roughly 70 million U.S. accountholders.

The long-anticipated move, telegraphed by Netflix a year ago, seeks to end a practice that the company allowed to go unchecked for years while its streaming service was attracting subscribers in droves. At that time, management had little incentive to risk riling customers by reining in password sharing.

While Netflix looked the

other away, an estimated 100 million people worldwide were getting passwords from family and friends to freeload on Netflix TV series such as "The Crown" and films such as "All Quiet On The Western Front." Those passwords were funneled through Netflix's 232.5 million worldwide paying subscribers, who generated the bulk of the company's \$32 billion in revenue last year.

But after a year of lackluster subscriber growth that included its largest customer losses in more than a decade, Netflix is putting its foot down.

In February, it began blocking freeloading viewers in Canada, New Zealand, Portugal and Spain, following similar moves in Latin America.

# Court rules against Prince Harry's offer to personally pay for police protection in UK

LONDON (AP)—A London judge rejected Prince Harry's bid to pay for his own police protection Tuesday, denying the royal's request to challenge the U.K. government in court.

The British government stopped providing security after Harry, the younger son of King Charles III, and his wife, the former actress Meghan Markle, quit their royal duties and moved to California in 2020. It then rejected his offer to pay for protection when he visits home.

tection when he visits home.

A lawyer for the govern-

ment argued in court that it was not appropriate to allow hiring "police officers as private bodyguards for the wealthy."

Justice Martin Chamberlain said there was nothing

"incoherent or illogical" in the government's reasoning to deny the Duke of Sussex's request to hire police bodyguards at his own expense. He said providing private protection for an individual was different from paying po-

said Harry

lice as security at sporting and other events. Further, he said it

could strain police resources, set a precedent and be seen as unfair.

"If privately funded protective security were permitted, a less

wealthy individual would feel unfairly treated, the availability of a limited specialist resource would be reduced and a precedent would have been set which it would be difficult to contain," Chamberlain wrote.

### Aging man's antics and ego make him hard to be around

EAR ABBY: My narcissistic father feels entitled to do whatever he pleases. He has always insisted that since he makes the money, far more than my mother's income, he should be waited on and cleaned up after. If he stays in my home, he leaves messes everywhere. He's 70, but he acts like a 4-year-old.

He loves attention and will do anything to be the center of it, whether it's wearing a kilt or showing off his intellectual prowess. I have no relationship with him, and I'm OK with that. Mom complains constantly about him, and then defends him. It's emotionally exhausting.

My husband, our kids and I are appalled at his lack of self-awareness, empathy or caring. He makes going on vacation a nightmare. He feels that if he does all the driving, then he's done his part and refuses to help with anything else. He is difficult and manipulative.

He's getting worse as he gets older, and I no longer want to subject my family to this. My mother doesn't seem to understand this. How do I deal with a narcissistic father and a mother who refuses to acknowledge it and constantly makes excuses for him?

EXASPERATED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR EXASPERATED: One way to deal with it would be to stop taking vacations with them, since the vacations seem

to be anything but pleasant for you and your family. Try to avoid him as often as you can. When your mother complains about "Dad," point out that this is the prize she married and you are tired of hearing her complain since she won't assert herself. Then change the subject when she brings it up.

**DEAR ABBY:** My brother is emerging from a painful two-year-long divorce, during which his two teenage daughters and one grown daughter became estranged from him. His now-ex-wife overshared with them during the divorce and did everything she could to prevent them from seeing him, despite court orders for him to have joint custody, visitation and therapy.

My brother isn't perfect, but he loves his girls and wants them in his life. He's slowly making progress with one of his minor daughters. My problem is his ex has caused them to shun the rest of their paternal relatives. My two sisters (their aunts) and I are pained by the loss of those relationships.

We still reach out at holidays and birthdays with texts, gifts and well wishes, but we receive no response, not even a polite "thank you." Because we stood by our brother during a terrible experience, we are "guilty by association." Should we continue reaching out or leave them alone until they are ready to have a relationship with us again?

# DEAR ABBY BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



VICTIM OF DIVORCE

DEAR VICTIM: I don't think you should continue sending gifts that go unacknowledged. However, leave the lines of communication open by sending cards to your nieces on appropriate occasions. If you haven't discussed this with your brother, I recommend you do, and take your lead from him.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

# **Pastimes**

### **Calvin and Hobbes**



EACH CARD HAS A LETTER FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL DASHES SHOW THE CARD, YOU YELL THE VULGAR, OBSCENE OR BLASPHEMOUS WORD THEY STAND



### By Bill Waterson



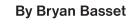
### **Garfield**®



### **By Jim Davis**



### Adam@home



### The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



**CROSSWORD** 

weekend

show

Tide,

8 Chess

12 Wall St.

briefly

soldier

debut

Hunter

14 Europe's

expert

**15** Tree

17 Scruff

18 Cudgel

19 Mexican

wraps

21 Reaping

24 Moment

25 Sashimi

26 Devious

28 Unpaid

bills

34 Actress

36 Mystique

37 Storage

41 Cacoph-

42 Always

44 Head

in verse

39 Silent

Dennings

fish

tool

neighbor

13 Novelist

4 Crimson

46 Hide

50 "Unh-

unh"

51 Daring

Knievel 52 Playoff

contes-

maker

Strauss

tant

56 Jeans-

(on)

sand

wich

fastener

59 Small

60 Tools

with

teeth

61 — -la-la

monds'

**DOWN** 

58 Hero

ACROSS

1 NBC



By Eugene Sheffer

21 Poet

30 Small

Teasdale Friday" network 22 Guitarist 3 Capitol Atkins 23 Caribou influencer kin 27 Candied 4 Beds on a boat veggie 5 Bird 29 Nirvana (Pref.) seeker

2 "Science

6 Church

downs

16 Cereal

**20** Wine

grain

selec-

tion

57 Walked service combo 31 Crooned 7 Poker payments 33 Neckwear 8 Cure-all acces-9 Now, in SOLA

35 Boy king a memo **10** Use a 38 Bee sponge follower 11 Burnsian 40 Simple turn-

organisms 43 Flat floaters 45 Crony 46 Cartoon

frames

fixture

Peters-

burg's

money

nia's

Big -

schedule

river

47 Bakery

Solution time: 24 mins.

32 Take five

48 Saint 49 Turkish 53 At once 54 Califor-55 TV Yesterday's answer 5-25

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alv Raisman, 29; Steven Krueger, 34; Octavia Spencer 51: Mike Myers 60

Happy Birthday: Observe, and you will discover how to get what you want. An enthusiastic approach to life will be met with success. Trust your instincts, not someone trying to take advantage of you. Refuse to let uncertainty hold you back. Talk to experts and discover what's entailed to make your dreams come true. Put a plan in place, pay attention to detail and prepare to excel. Your numbers are 3, 14, 27, 32, 34, 45, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your plans reasonable. Protect against injury and illness. Straightforward techniques and a lifestyle you can afford will ease stress and move you in a positive direction. Evaluate your spending habits and design a savings plan that works for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Handle domestic matters carefully. You'll face opposition and emotional backlash from someone eager to rearrange your plans. Do your best to get along and prepare to move forward alone if necessary. Choose peace and love over discord and chaos.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take the initiative and put your energy where it will help the most. Share your thoughts and concerns with people affected by the decisions you make. Research will help you eliminate unnecessary steps to reach your goal.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Handle your money with care. You'll feel tempted regarding impulsive purchases. Making promises you can't keep or being helpful to someone using emotional tactics to scam you out of cash will make life difficult. Rethink your response to others and the best way to make things better.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Someone will try to exploit your generosity. It's OK to say no and to spend time on something that benefits you or helps you create a better space and happier life. It's up to you to build personal strength and confidence.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): By being open to suggestions, you will find a new way to use your skills and knowledge. A talk with someone you want to spend more time with will lead to an exciting partnership. Mimic the experts and excel.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take the road less traveled. A unique offering will encourage you to learn more and try something new. Put your energy where it counts and brings the most joy. How you proceed will determine your happiness and self-worth. Budget wisely. 🍪 🍪 🕹

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep a low profile and work quietly on what inspires and motivates you most. Refuse to let emotions disrupt your plans. Use your imagination, and you'll discover a way to get fit and healthy by doing something you enjoy. Romance is in the stars. 🛇

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):

Listen to the truth and walk away from disruptive situations and controlling people. Place more credence in learning and setting yourself up for more significant opportunities. Don't feel you have to overspend to make yourself happy since happiness depends on your state

**EUGENIA** 

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take pride in your life and accomplishments. Make changes at home that are conducive to productivity, entertainment and peace of mind. Do what you can to lower your overhead and stabilize your emotional and financial situation. Romance is favored. 🍪 😂

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Slow down and take a closer look at your situation and how others respond to the decisions you make. Proceed with caution, honesty and the desire to make changes that offer peace, happiness and more time with someone you find interesting.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Dig in and hone your skills. Take what you enjoy doing to the next level. Be imaginative and consider what will give you a competitive edge. Don't let fear limit your chance to succeed. Explore the possibilities and connect with helpful people.

Birthday Baby: You are steadfast, proactive and sensitive. You are impulsive and unrestrained.

O: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. OO: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. 👀: Focus and you'll reach your goals. OOOO: Aim high; start new projects. OOOO: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

HOW TO PLAY; All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

S C U I N S E C T R K (F) (1) (R) (E)

SUOLLTCREATUREG

URPLINCLLEVILAE

NEIPOUIELIFESTT SHGEOGRAPHYSTHA HTYMIRIETSTSAUT

IABOGCTCENEMTMI N R O C K S A R U R U A O

EWASOULLOLAOENN

H S D R O W P F E I R T M S B SLAMINAANLESE

I E E S R E V I N U V B E A R

F S U O N E G I D N I W R F D LACISYHPLARUTAN

VITCEPS

By DAVID

R E P B

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

of mind. OOOOO

7				5	2		3	
	9			3	4		5	
3		4						7
	1			4				
	3			1	8	5		
5	2	8				9		1
	T.	3				2	9	
6								5
6 2			3		1		7	8

5/2.5 Difficulty: \*\*

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

### Yesterday's Answer

3	1	4	7	2	6	5	9	8
6	7	2	5	8	9	1	3	4
9	8	5	3	1	4	7	6	2
5	9	6	1	4	8	2	7	3
1	3	7	2	6	5	8	4	9
4	2	8	9	3	7	6	5	1
7	6	3	8	9	2	4	1	5
2	4	1	6	5	3	9	8	7
8	5	9	4	7	1	3	2	6

3	1	4	7	2	6	5	9	8
6	7	2	5	8	9	1	3	4
9	8	5	3	1	4	7	6	2
5	9	6	1	4	8	2	7	3
1	3	7	2	6	5	8	4	9
4	2	8	9	3	7	6	5	1
7	6	3	8	9	2	4	1	5
2	4	1	6	5	3	9	8	7
8	5	9	4	7	1	3	2	6

3	1	4	7	2	6	5	9	8
6	7	2	5	8	9	1	3	4
9	8	5	3	1	4	7	6	2
5	9	6	1	4	8	2	7	3
1	3	7	2	6	5	8	4	9
4	2	8	9	3	7	6	5	1
7	6	3	8	9	2	4	1	5
2	4	1	6	5	3	9	8	7
8	5	9	4	7	1	3	2	6

© 2025 Andrews McMeal Syndication - www.worcerword.com

WONDERWORD

F C F

N E

Alive, Animals, Bear, Bird, Breath, Creature, Culture Ecological, Fire, Fish, Forest, Geography, Grass, Hills Humans, Indigenous, Insect, Lake, Leaves, Life, Mountain Myth, Natural, Perspective, Physical, Plants, Rain, Religion Respect, River, Rocks, Social, Soul, Statue, Storm, Sunshine Support, Tree, Universe, Vegetation, Weather, Wind, Words Yesterday's Answer: Fashion

The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WoncerWordBooks.com, or cal. 1-800-642-6480.

# Celtics stave off elimination by topping Heat 116-99 in Game 4

MIAMI (AP)—Down nine early in the third quarter, down 3-0 in the series, the Boston Celtics knew their season was completely on the brink.

Three minutes later, everything looked different.

Jayson Tatum had 33 points and 11 rebounds, Jaylen Brown added 17 points and the Celtics staved off elimination in the Eastern Conference finals by running away in the second half to beat the Miami Heat 116-99 in Game 4 on Tuesday night.

"We were just trying to save our season," Tatum said.

They most definitely found a way to do that. The two big differences: a 30-point edge for the Celtics on 3-pointers, and an 18-0 run in that threeminute, third-quarter spurt that changed the game and—they hope—might end up changing the series.

"We can't relax," Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla said. "We have to keep the same level of intensity, the same mindset, the same focus in the next game."

Derrick White scored 16 points, Grant Williams had 14, Al Horford added 12 and Marcus Smart scored 11 for the Celtics, who still trail the series 3-1—but sent it back to Boston for a Game 5 on Thursday.

Jimmy Butler scored 29 for Miami, which was outscored 48-22 in a 14-minute stretch



Boston Celtics players cheer during the second half of Game 4 during the NBA basketball playoffs Eastern Conference finals against the Miami Heat, Tuesday, May 23, 2023, in Miami.

that turned the game—and perhaps the series—completely around. Boston would also have Game 7 on its floor as well if it can keep extending this series.

"Tonight we played with pace, purpose," Tatum said. "We were getting stops. We were getting out in transition. You see layups and free throws go in, the jump shots start to feel a lot easier.'

Gabe Vincent scored 17 for Miami, Caleb Martin had 16 and Bam Adebayo added 10. The Heat shot 8 for 32 on 3-pointers, while

Boston was 18 for 45.

No team in NBA history has ever successfully rallied from a 3-0 deficit in a best-of-seven series; 150 have tried, 150 have failed.

But the Celtics gave themselves hope.

"We don't really have

a choice," Mazzulla said. "It's do-or-die. Got to stick together."

The Heat led by as many as nine points in the opening quarter, kept the lead for the majority of the first half and were up by nine again when Max Strus connected

on a 3-pointer early in the third quarter.

That was the moment where Boston's season was at stake.

And the Celtics responded most emphatically.

The 18-0 run took Boston from down nine to up nine, a huge turnaround that took 3 minutes, 3 seconds. The Celtics were 6 of 7 from the floor during the run, 4 of 4 from 3-point range, Tatum had nine of the 18 points and just like that the defending East champions—who won three playoff games on Miami's home floor in last year's playoffs-were rolling again.

"We always say the last one to get is the hardest one to get," Adebayo said. "I knew they would be desperate."

Miami got within four late in the third, only to see another lightning-fast spurt by the Celtics-this time, seven unanswered points in 40 seconds. Boston's edge was 88-79 going into the fourth, after winning the third quarter 38-23, with 21 of those points coming on 3-pointers.

The Celtics kept the lead the rest of the way.

"They got us tonight," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "You have to give them credit for that. There's no doubt about it. There's no questioning it. We're not wondering about that. They deserved to win tonight. We have to regroup and get ready for a great opportunity in Boston."

LOS ANGELES (AP)— LeBron James questioned retirement after his Lakers were swept by the Denver Nuggets despite the highest-scoring postseason half of James' matchless NBA career.

James set a personal record with 31 points in the first half of Game 4 of the Western Conference finals on Monday night, but he missed two potential tying shots in the final minute as the Nuggets ended the Lakers' season with a 113-111 victory.

The 38-year-old James finished with 40 points, 10 rebounds, nine assists and immense frustration after Los Angeles' remarkable lateseason surge ended with four consecutive defeats. Although the top scorer in NBA history spoke about himself as part of the Lakers next season, James also said he hasn't made up his mind on retirement.

"We'll see what happens going forward," James said in the final answer of his postgame news conference. "I don't know. I don't know. I've got a lot to think about, to be honest. Just for me personally going forward with the game of basketball, I've got a lot to think about."

James is under contract for

### LeBron questions retirement after Lakers are eliminated from playoffs

\$46.9 million next season with the Lakers, but he is in charge of his future after surpassing Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's career scoring record earlier this year. He hasn't previously suggested much personal conflict about finishing his contract alongside Anthony Davis, and his play hasn't significantly declined after two decades in the NBA — although his health has grown less sturdy, particularly in his balky feet and ankles.

"It's all about availability for me and keeping my mind sharp, and things of that nature," James said. "Being present on the floor, being present in the locker room and bus rides and plane rides, things of that nature. It's challenging, for sure. It was a very challenging season for me, for our ballclub, and obviously we know whatever went on early on (in the Lakers' 2-10 start to the season). It was cool, a pretty cool ride."

James missed a month of the regular season with a foot injury down the stretch, but he returned with a series of stellar playoff performances while the Lakers knocked off second-seeded Memphis and eliminated defending champion Golden State. That didn't matter much to James, whose frustration broke through at several points after Game 4.

"I don't like to say it's a successful year, because I don't play for anything besides winning championships at this point in my career," James said. "You know, I don't get a kick out of making a conference (finals) appearance. I've done it a lot, and it's not fun to me to not be able to be a part of getting to the (NBA) Finals."

In his NBA-record 282nd career playoff game, James dropped 21 points in a dynamic first quarter in Game 4. He added 10 more in the second while playing nearly the entire half of a do-or-die game against the top-seeded Nuggets.

But James had only nine points on 4-of-12 shooting in the second half, and he missed two chances to score in the final minute. He took a strange fallaway jumper that missed badly with 26 seconds left, and his final drive to the hoop was thwarted by Denver's Jamal Murray and Aaron Gordon at the buzzer.

But the first half was vin-

tage LeBron: He made 11 of his 13 shots and hit four 3-pointers without a miss in the highest-scoring playoff half of his career, which began in 2003 and has included four NBA championships. James added four rebounds and four assists, and he also got a technical foul after a physical exchange with Gordon when the two got locked up on the Lakers' end of the court.

James had struggled from distance previously in the series, going 3 for 19 in the first three games. He fixed his shot in Game 4 — and he even got credit for a 3-pointer in the first quarter when his lob pass to Rui Hachimura accidentally went in the basket.

James already had the highest scoring average in NBA history in elimination games (33.5 points per game) among all players with at least 10 such appearances.

After failing to win a title this year, James is clearly thinking about whether he wants to do it all again. One major obstacle to any retirement thoughts is his long-stat-

ed desire to play an NBA season alongside his son, Bronny, who will be a freshman at USC this fall and couldn't join the league until the fall of 2024 at the earliest.

"I guess I'll reflect on my career when I'm done, but I don't know," James said when asked to assess his 20th season. "The only thing I concern myself with is being available to my teammates, and I don't like the fact that I didn't play as many games as I would have liked because of injury. That's the only thing I care about, is being available to my teammates."

### Carmelo Anthony retires from NBA

Carmelo Anthony, the star more than Anthony, who an NCAA championship in his lone college season and went on to spend 19 years in the NBA, announced his retirement on Monday.

Anthony, who was not in the NBA this season, retires as the No. 9 scorer in league history.

Only LeBron James, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Karl Malone, Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan, Dirk Nowitzki, Wilt Chamberlain and Shaquille O'Neal scored

28,289 points.

"Now the time has come for me to say good-bye ... to the game that gave me purpose and pride," Anthony said in a videotaped message announcing his decisionone he called "bittersweet."

Anthony's legacy has long been secure: He ends his playing days after being selected as one of the 75 greatest players in NBA history, a 10-time All-Star, a past scoring champion and a six-time All-NBA selection.

And while he never got to the NBA Finals—he only forward who led Syracuse to finishes his career with played in the conference finals once, with Denver against the eventual champion Los Angeles Lakers in 2009—Anthony also knew what it was like to be a champion.

He was the Most Outstanding Player of the 2003 Final Four when he led Svracuse to the national championship, and he helped the U.S. win Olympic gold three times— at Beijing in 2008, at London in 2012 and at Rio de Janeiro in 2016. (AP)

# Guerrero, Blue Jays pound MLB-best Rays 20-1



TERS-BURG. F l a

(AP)—The Toronto Blue Jays dugout got a laugh when slugger Vladimir Guerrero Jr. struck out against a position player. Given a second chance against Luke Raley, Guerrero hit his fourth career grand slam.

Guerrero had six RBIs and the Blue Jays stopped a fivegame losing streak with a 20-1 rout of the Tampa Bay Rays on Tuesday night, scoring their last 10 runs off position players.

Guerrero put Toronto ahead with an RBI single off Taj Bradley (3-1) in the first, had a run-scoring single in the fifth that opened a 10-0 lead and hit a 423-foot grand slam in a nine-run ninth against Raley.

"We were all kind of laughing," Blue Jays manager John Schneider said of Guerrero's strikeout on a 50 mph pitch. "It's hard to do against a dude throwing 40, whatever. You kind of take it for what it's worth. The fact that he was laughing, I loved it.'

"But, you don't get Vladdy twice on a position player," Schneider added. "He's going to get you."

Guerrero is hitting .300 with eight homers and 33 RBIs. His six RBIs were one shy of his career high.

All 12 Toronto batters in the game had hits, and the Blue Jays finished with 27 hitstheir most since getting 29 against Boston in a 28-5 win last July 22.

Tampa Bay entered with the second-fewest runs allowed in the majors at 170 and gave up its most since a 20-8 loss at Boston on Aug. 11, 2021.

"In fairness, it got a little ugly." Rays manager Kevin Cash said.

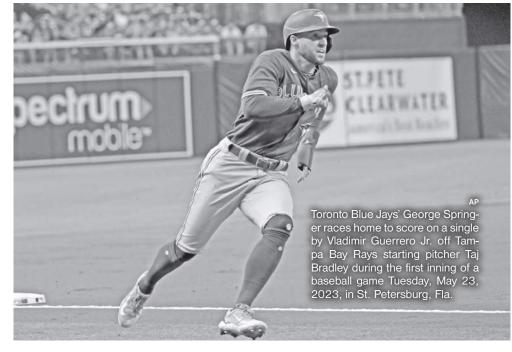
George Springer had a career-high four hits, and Bo Bichette, Whit Merrifield, Danny Jansen and Guerrero had three apiece. Springer hit his seventh homer, a solo drive in the third.

"It's good to see some positives on our side," Springer said. "It's just a good day. Hopefully spiral into a lot more.

Raley, an outfielder and first baseman, allowed seven runs and eight hits over 1 2/3 innings. He threw 27 pitches of 47-54 mph.

"It's something I can honestly say I never thought I would do ... at least have one strikeout in the books," Raley said.

Christian Catcher Bethancourt entered with two outs in the ninth and gave up Daulton Varsho's RBI single and Jansen's two-run homer.



Raley's ERA is 30.38 after his second mound appearance this season. Bethancourt's ERA is 81.00.

"It's not my favorite place to be," Raley said. "I told them before, I got rocked in high school, so I can't imagine what these guys would actually do to me if I tried to pitch. So just try to lob it over the plate and save our bullpen."

Cash said with a smile that Raley needs to add a changeup. Zack Burdi gave up six runs

in the fifth, five of them earned. José Berríos (4-4) allowed one run, five hits and two

walks, striking out five. Isaac Paredes homered for

the Rays, who dropped to 22-5 at home this season. Tampa Bay leads the majors with 95 home runs.

Bradley gave up four runs and nine hits in four innings.

### YANKEES 6, ORIOLES 5, 10 INNINGS

NEW YORK (AP)—Aaron Judge hit a tying homer in the ninth inning and rookie Anthony Volpe drove in the winning run with a sacrifice fly in the 10th against Bryan Baker (3-2) as streaking New York rallied past Baltimore.

Harrison Bader homered to begin New York's comeback from an early 4-0 deficit, and Judge took Gerrit Cole off the hook for his first loss in 11 starts this season.

Back home from a 6-1 trip, fifth straight in a series opener between AL East rivals.

Cedric Mullins and Gunnar Henderson homered off Cole for Baltimore, which was coming off a three-game sweep at Toronto.

Michael King (1-1) pitched two hitless innings for the win, striking out three.

### **DODGERS 8, BRAVES 1**

**ATLANTA** (AP)—Bobby Miller allowed one run over five innings in his big league debut and Los Angeles

beat Atlanta.

J.D. Martinez and Jason Heyward homered for the Dodgers, who also got three RBIs from Will Smith.

Spencer Strider (4-2) fanned 11 hitters to increase his MLBleading strikeout total to 97 - his fourth start this season with double-digit Ks and 10th of his young career. He allowed four runs, two earned, in six innings.

Miller (1-0) surrendered four hits, walked one and struck out five while consistently reaching 100 mph with his fastball.

### RANGERS 6, PIRATES 1

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Texas' Nathan Eovaldi pitched a complete game for the second time in five starts after throwing just two in the first 226 of his major league career.

Eovaldi (6-2) allowed six hits, struck out five and walked one, his fifth straight start of at least seven innings.

Josh Jung hit his 11th home run of his first full season in the majors to give the Rangers a five-run lead in the eighth.

Texas has won four of five. Pittsburgh has split its last eight games after losing 11 of 12 and has not won a series since taking two of three at Washington on April 29 and 30.

Rich Hill (4-4) gave up five runs on seven hits in 5 1/3 inthe Yankees (30-20) won their nings with a season-high nine

### PADRES 7, **NATIONALS 4**

WASHINGTON (AP)—Juan Soto hit his ninth homer and had three hits to begin a threegame visit to his former team as San Diego beat Washington.

Jake Cronenworth followed Soto's seventh-inning solo shot with a two-run homer two batters later as the Padres scored four times off Nationals reliever Erasmo Ramirez (2-2).

San Diego's Yu Darvish (3-3) allowed back-to-back homers to CJ Abrams and Lane Thomas in the fifth inning, but no other damage in a sixinning effort.

Josh Hader worked a scoreless ninth for his 12th save in 14 chances.

### **DIAMONDBACKS 4,** PHILLIES 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP)— Corbin Carroll singled in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning for his third hit and Arizona beat Philadelphia for its ninth victory in 11 games.

At 29-20, Arizona moved nine games over .500 for the first time since Sept. 11, 2018, when it was 77-68.

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. extended his hitting streak to 16 games—the longest active run in the majors—with a leadoff double in the eighth off Seranthony Dominguez (1-2). After advancing to third on a passed ball by J.T. Realmuto, Gurriel scored on Carroll's single to left through a drawn-in infield.

Reliever Jose Ruiz (2-0) got the win and Miguel Castro earned his fifth save with clean ninth.

### **GIANTS 4, TWINS 3**

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)— Michael Conforto doubled to spark a sixth-inning rally and hit the go-ahead two-run homer in the seventh as San Francisco rallied past Minnesota.

The Giants have won seven of eight. Alex Cobb (4-1) finished seven innings for the third time in four starts this month, working around a two-run home run by Byron Buxton in the first inning and a solo shot by Michael Taylor in the fifth.

With Jorge López (1-2) on the mound for the seventh. Thairo Estrada led off with a double and trotted home on Conforto's 10th homer of the season.

Camilo Doval pitched a hitless ninth for his 13th save in 14 attempts.

### **ANGELS 4, RED SOX 0**

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)— Mike Trout hit a two-run homer and Griffin Canning allowed two hits in seven innings as Los Angeles beat Boston.

Mickey Moniak homered for the second straight game and Matt Thaiss also went deep for the Angels, who have won three straight and four of five.

Canning (3-2) struck out five and walked three.

Brayan Bello (3-2) gave up Moniak and Thaiss' solo homers in his seven innings. Trout homered in the eighth off Joely Rodriguez.

### **ROCKIES 5, MARLINS 4**

DENVER (AP)—Charlie Blackmon doubled in a fourrun fifth inning, Jurickson Profar extended his on-base streak to 31 games and Colorado spoiled 20-year-old Eury Pérez's road debut for Miami.

Elías Díaz had three hits for Colorado. The Rockies have won the first two of the fourgame set.

Pérez (1-1) allowed four runs-three earned-on four hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Garrett Cooper's two-run homer with two outs in the sixth inning chased starter Austin Gomber (4-4). Soler's RBI double in the ninth made it a one-run game, but Pierce Johnson closed it out for his 10th save.

### **MARINERS 3, ATHLETICS 2**

**SEATTLE** (AP)—J.P. Crawford and Ty France hit back-to-back home runs in a three-run fifth inning, and Seattle sent Oakland to its sixth straight loss and 14th in 16 games.

The A's dropped to 10-40, matching the 1932 Boston Red Sox and 1897 St. Louis Browns for the fourthworst 50-game start in big league history.

Marco Gonzales (4-1) who allowed five hits in six inning with four strikeouts. Trevor Gott, Justin Topa and Paul Sewald pitched a hitless inning each. Sewald remained perfect in 10 save chances.

Luis Medina (0-3) took the loss.

### CUBS 7, METS 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Christopher Morel, Matt Mervis and Seiya Suzuki homered and Chicago cooled off New York.

Mervis had three RBIs and Drew Smyly (5-1) pitched four-hit ball into the sixth inning.

Morel extended his homer streak to five games with a

solo shot against Stephen Nogosek in the seventh. He became the first player with such a streak for the Cubs since Sammy Sosa in June 1998.

Tylor Megill (5-3) allowed six runs, four earned, in 3 2/3 innings for the Mets, whose five-game winning streak ended. Pete Alonso hit his big league-best 18th homer for New York.

### **BREWERS 6, ASTROS O**

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Joey Wiemer and Owen Miller homered, Colin Rea combined with four relievers on a fivehitter and Milwaukee stopped Houston's eight-game winning streak.

Rea (1-3) gave up four hits in 5 1/3 innings. Houston was blanked for the second time.

J.P. France (1-1) gave up two runs — one earned — and five hits in 5 2/3 innings.

### WHITE SOX 4, **GUARDIANS 2**

CLEVELAND (AP)—Romy González's two-run double off rookie starter Logan Allen (1-2) broke a 2-2 seventh-inning tie and sent Chicago past Cleveland.

Yasmani Grandal homered for the White Sox, who started 7-21 but have won six of eight. Chicago's rally helped Dylan Cease (3-3) win for the

first time since April 10-a span of eight starts. The righthander went six innings, Keynan Middleton and Joe Kelly pitched an inning apiece, and Kendall Graveman worked the ninth for his fourth save.

### **CARDINALS 8, REDS 5**

CINCINNATI (AP)—Paul Goldschmidt homered in his first two at-bats and St. Louis' Adam Wainwright beat Cincinnati for the first time since 2019.

The Cardinals have won 12 of 16 since starting the season 10-24.

Goldschmidt hit solo homers in the first and third innings off Graham Ashcraft (2-3).

Wainwright (2-0) allowed five runs in 5 2/3 innings.

### **ROYALS 4, TIGERS 1**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)— Maikel Garcia had three hits, an RBI and a run and Kansas City beat Detroit to snap a four-game skid.

Mike Mayers allowed one run on six hits in 4 2/3 innings in his first start for the Royals. He struck out a careerhigh eight and walked one. Jose Cuas (3-0) was the winner, and Aroldis Chapman pitched a scoreless ninth for his second save.

Eduardo Rodriguez (4-4) allowed four runs — two earned — on eight hits in five innings.

# NMIFA celebrates AFC Grassroots Football Day

By LEIGH GASES

leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com



h e Τ Northern Mariana Islands

Football Association celebrated AFC Grassroots Football Day last Saturday at the Northern Marianas Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The event was aimed at bolstering the CNMI's grassroots program and to join the Asian Football Confederation in its quest to continue pushing for the development of the sport among the young generation in the region.

They also had sessions with students at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School and Garapan Elementary School.

A total of 143 GTC students from first to third grade, 217 GES students, along with teachers and teacher aides, 130 8U and 10U club players,

Soccer players from six football clubs celebrate the 10th AFC Grassroots Football Day last Saturday at the Northern Marianas Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



30 club coaches, and 20 National Team players joined the celebration.

Six football clubs—Kanoa FC, Tan Holdings FC, Shirley's FC, Southern United FC, and Matansa FC-participated in the event.

The activities involved four stations-three drills and one small-sided game for PSS students and six stations-and three drills as well as three types of small-sided games for

clubs and players rotating after 8-10 minutes.

ONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jershwin Angeles, NMIFA coach, said of the event that it was "to celebrate the AFC Grassroots Football Day together with the NMI football

as they have been my pillar

He also expressed his

gratitude to federation mem-

bers who have entrusted him

with this responsibility once

again. "It is an honor to

have their support and con-

fidence in my leadership

abilities. I am committed to

working tirelessly to advance

the interests of athletics in

Oceania, promote inclusivity,

and create opportunities for

athletes to excel on the inter-

national stage. I value the col-

lective effort of the federation

members and look forward

to collaborating with them to

achieve our shared goals and

aspirations. Together, we will

strive to elevate the standards

of athletics in Oceania and

foster a vibrant and thriving

He then thanked NMA for

"Being nominated by such

nominating him as the Ocea-

sports community."

nia Athletics president.

SAPONG

From Page 20

of strength."

family. [It was] a week-long celebration of the event by conducting different grassroots activities to increase the popularity of soccer on the island."

"[It was also the] first time to include public schools (GES and GTC) since both are

the only schools that participated in this year's PE Support Program," he said.

Asian Football Confederation's Grassroots Football Day marked its 10th celebration last May 15. Since 2013, the reach of the event has seen a threefold increase with the 2023 edition celebrated by 39 member associations and by almost 28,000 participants.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students from Garapan Elementary School learn soccer drills during the 10th AFC Grassroots Soccer Day.

### **NMISF**

From Page 20

aged by it and try moving on to the next stage," said Kimura.

As for results, Leo Li topped the U8 tetrathon with 4 total points. He finished first in the 50m butterfly, 50m backstroke, 50m breaststroke, and 50m butterfly. Gabriel Walsh and Yoonmin Cho came second and third with 10 points and 16 points, respectively.

In the 9-10, Catalina Frink came first with 6 points followed by Shana Barman and Sera Guerrero with 7 points and 13 points, respectively.

Sari Barman, Maria Guerrero, and Haoyang Song were 1-2-3 in the 11-12 with 6 points, 7 points, and 13 points, respectively.

Moshe Sikkel then edged Michael Miller in the 13-14 after the former finished with 8 points against the latter's 10 points. Third place went to Justin Ma with 13 points.

In the 25-yard kick U10 mixed, Lauren Camacho was first in a time of 23.58 followed by Dylan Chen (25.28) and Juwon Park (25.67).

Camacho also won the 25yard swim U10 mixed with a time of 23.50. Shane Matubas was second in 23.63 with Vince Seman Jr. completing the Top 3 in 23.80.

Kimura was pretty happy with how NMISF's First Development Meet turned out.

"We believe it was a good opportunity for young swimmers. It was a frequent event in the days when we had the Marpi pool. Although it would be held on a small scale, we think it was really good that we were able to hold it for the first time in six years. This kind of meet is very important in the development of NMI

young swimmers. We look forward to the continued understanding and support from the swimming federation and the community."

Kimura said, originally, he thought of holding the meet just for U12 swimmers, but due to requests, he decided to

island is to develop swimmers under the age of 12. Girls can be eligible to be in the national team from age 14, and boys from age 15. So swimmers in the 13-14 age group have a clear goal at hand. This goes against the purpose of the meet which is named 'development.' for swimmers under the age of 12, there is no immediate goal right now. It's very difficult to practice hard without a goal. Therefore, I want to restart the development meet,"

include the 13-14 age group.

"The urgent need for this However, said Kimura.

anas Open 2023, the major-Saipan International 2023, International 2023.

The two NMI-hosted 2024 Paris Olympic qualifiers are both Grade 3 events (Continental Level) that are sanctioned by the Badminton World Federation and Bada prestigious organization is a true honor." He also thanked [World Athletics] president Lord Sebastian Coa for his support and encouragement throughout his journey as the Oceania Athletics president and the Oceania Athletics staff for their hard work, professionalism, and commitment to excellence.

Sapong was first elected OAA president last 2019.

For Dela Cruz, he said, "I'll be honest, I didn't even know I was in the running at all. There are a ton of amazing technical officials that run track and field events. The ones that came to run the Mini Games track meet were extraordinary men and women that I hoped to perform at the level they do one day. I thought they were way more deserving. I don't hold a candle to them."

As for how he felt, he said "I was shocked. I didn't think I was good enough yet for our state compared to the legends here let alone the entire Oceania. I have nothing but gratitude to president Robin, executive director Yvonne Mullins, and the rest of the Oceania team for believing I deserved it. I'm still in shock."

He then thanked his wife and son "for supporting me and letting me continue to do what I do. I thank Robin and Dr. Ron [Snyder] for their friendship and mentorship in this sport and support. A large thank you to my team at Northern Marianas Athletics and Run Saipan. Special big thank you to my employers at Commonwealth Ports Authority, especially captain Vince Camacho, assistant chief Phillip Aldan, assistant chief Jerome Reyes, and chief Frederick Pangelinan for supporting what I do with the track and field and running community. If they were not as supportive I don't think I'd be able to put as much time and effort into this sport if I was in a regular 8am-5pm job like the central government. Having a very supportive employer makes a tremendous difference in my ability to perform for our community."

### 4-TIME

From Page 20

an Lubao, and Pablo will have their first taste of high-level competition.

"We are excited to welcome the participants of the two 2024 Paris Olympic Qualifiers and I believe with an Olympian on the men's singles list and a bunch of very competitive players from Chinese-Taipei, Japan, Korea, and other Asian countries where badminton is very popular, we can expect very good games," said Merlie Tolentino, president of the Northern Marianas Badminton Association, which was awarded the hosting rights for the Olympic qualifier.

"We are also looking forward to our own players hav-

ing the chance to experience competing at this level. We're calling our community members to support our players and also show our warm island hospitality to our visiting players and officials, who will be on Saipan for two weeks," Tolentino added.

Other notable players in the competition are men's singles No. 2 seed Chi Yu Jen of Chinese-Taipei; men's doubles No. 2 seed Nyl Yakura and Adam Dong of Canada; women's singles No. 2 seed Sung Shuo Yu of Chinese-Taipei; mixed doubles No. 2 seed Adahm Hatem Elagamel and Doha Hany of Egypt; and VICTOR Oceania Championships and mixed doubles winners Kenneth Choo and Gronva Sommerville of Australia.

After the Northern Mari-

ity of the players entered in this competition will remain on island to participate in the which will run from June 13 to 18. The second part of the Olympic qualifier doubleheader has drawn 204 players. Guam, Spain, Hungary, Belgium, Malaysia, Singapore, India, New Zealand, Vietnam, Mongolia, Thailand, Finland, Poland, Slovakia, and Germany are the other countries represented in the Northern Marianas Open 2023 and Saipan

minton Oceania. (PR)



Celtics stave off elimination by topping Heat 116-99 in Game 4.

**PAGE 17** 



**NMIFA** celebrates **AFC Grassroots** Football Day.

**PAGE 19** 



**20** THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



# 4-time Olympian joins qualifiers for Paris Games

Four-time Olympian Kevin Cordon of Guatemala is among the 199 players from 25 countries registered to play in the Northern Marianas Open 2023, which would kick off the double-header 2024 Paris Olympics qualifiers that the NMI will be hosting next month.

Joining Cordon in the Northern Marianas Open scheduled for June 6-11 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium are the NMI's Nate Guerrero, Leonard Manuel, Daniel Macario, Paolo Quidato, Ian and Brian Lubao, Daniel Pablo, and Janelle Pangilinan.

Cordon is the top seed in the men's singles draw and will be vying for qualifying points that would help him play in the Olympic Games for the fifth straight time. The 36-yeard-old and world No. 40 player first saw action in the Beijing Olympics in 2008 and was Guatemala's flag bearer. Cordon then competed at London 2012 and Brazil 2016, while

his latest and most impressive one was at the 2020 Tokyo Games in

2022. He was the first Central American to reach the Olympic badminton semis when he defeated South Korea's Kwang-Hee to arrange a duel with eventual gold medalist Viktor Axelsen of Denmark.

As for the host country, Pangilinan, Guerrero, Manuel, and Macario were members of the NMI Team that played in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games. Manuel, Guerrero, and Pangilinan also joined a tournament in New Zealand early this year, while junior players Quidato, Ian and Bri-

See 4-TIME on Page 19

# **NMISF** holds first Development Meet



mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSOCIATE EDITOR

he Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation held its first Development Meet last Saturday, May 20, at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan lap pool.

The meet was hosted by Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center and head coach Hiroyuki Kimura said a total of 43 swimmers

Tsunami Saipan and Saipan Northern Mariana Islands Swim Club took **Swimming Federation** part in the com-

petition that consisted of two events-the tetrathlon and a 25-yard race.

"Tetrathon asks young swimmers to learn four strokes of swimming first. Swim only three strokes and you can't participate in the tetrathon. If a swimmer wants to participate in the tetrathon, they need to practice four strokes. It would

be great if young kids feel like that. Also, I would like the current young swimmer's parents to understand that the swim-

ming competition is held in the age group during the junior years." He said the

25-yard race was included to familiarize young swimmers about the rigors of actual competition.

"The goal is to complete 25 yards. There are no violations or disqualifications, and all swimmers receive a ribbon right after the goal. We want all young kids to be encour-

See NMISF on Page 19

### Sapong reelected president; Dela Cruz, Tebuteb receive awards

By LEIGH GASES



Northern Maria n a s

Athletics general secretary Robin Sapong was re-elected Oceania Athletics president during the Oceania Athletics Association Congress in Nadi, Fiji last May 17.

Also in the same event, NMA president Ramon Tebuteb was presented with the Merit Award and Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. was presented

cial Award.

Sapong told the media via email, "I would like to take this moment to express my deepest gratitude and acknowledge the immense blessings and guidance bestowed upon me. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt thanks to God for the strength, wisdom, and opportunities that have led me to be re-elected as the Oceania Athletics president. It is through His grace that I have been able to serve the athletics community and contribute to the growth and development

and remain committed to carrying out my duties with integrity, fairness, and dedication, keeping in mind the values instilled in me by my faith."

He also extended his sincere appreciation to his loving family for their unwavering support and understanding throughout this journey.

"Their encouragement and belief in me have been the driving force behind my achievements. Their constant presence and unconditional love have provided me with

the Male Technical Offi- of the sport in our region. I am the strength and motivation humbled by this re-election to overcome challenges and pursue my passion for athletics administration. I am truly blessed to have such an incredible family, and I dedicate this re-election to them,

See SAPONG on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO From left to right, World Athletics president Lord Sebastian Coe, Oceania Athletics president Robin Sapong, and Northern Marianas Athletics president Ramon Tebuteb at the Oceania Athletics Association Congress in Nadi, Fiji last

